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13-23 February 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development:
   (a) Themes:
      (i) Priority theme: enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world;
      (ii) Sub-theme: the role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.
4. Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2002-2006.
5. Programme questions and other matters:
   (a) Programme performance and implementation;
   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003;
   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
6. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a

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regular session, the Commission shall elect from among the representatives of its members a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

At most of its past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur or Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that, after the election of its officers at the beginning of each session, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.5/2001/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.5/2001/L.1)

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

In accordance with the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", the Commission will undertake regular assessments of the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the further initiatives adopted at Geneva.

(a) Themes:

(i) Priority theme: enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world;

(ii) Sub-theme: the role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development

As decided at the thirty-eighth session, the Commission will have before it reports of the Secretary-General on the priority theme and sub-theme.

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

The Commission will consider issues pertaining to the situation of social groups. The Commission will have before it reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons and the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and the observance of its tenth anniversary in 2004.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/262 of 25 May 2000, the Commission will serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The Bureau of the Commission has proposed that the Preparatory Committee should meet from 26 February to 2 March 2001.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world (E/CN.5/2001/-)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development (E/CN.5/2001/-)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the contribution of the United Nations Volunteers Programme to the Preparatory Committee of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.5/2001/-)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons (E/CN.5/2001/-)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and the observance of its tenth anniversary in 2004 (E/CN.5/2001/-)

4. Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2002-2006

The Commission will decide on its multi-year programme of work for 2002-2006.

5. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Programme performance and implementation

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238 of 18 December 1984, the Commission will have before it excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/55/73) and from the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fortieth session (A/55/16).

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

The Commission will have before it the proposed programme of work of the Secretariat for the biennium 2002-2003 in the field of social development.

(c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Nomination of members of the Board of the Institute

The Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is composed of 10 members who are nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council for a term of four years, renewable once for a further two years, in accordance with Commission resolution 10 (XXV).

The Commission, at its thirty-ninth session, will therefore be called upon to nominate a number of new members and to renominate some existing members of the Board. The Council will be called upon to confirm those nominations in 2001.

Report of the Board of the Institute

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Board of the Institute submits to the Commission a report on the progress of its work. The report before the Commission covers the biennium 1999-2000.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/CN.5/2001/L.-)

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/2001/-)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/2001/-)

6. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fortieth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted for its consideration.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2001/L.-)

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Commission reports to the Economic and Social Council on the work of each session.

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Commission for Social Development
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Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development: themes: priority theme: enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world

Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world

Report of the Secretary-General

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II. List of participants at an expert group meeting on the theme: "Coping in dire circumstances: traditional and modern schemes of social protection in the context of development", Cape Town, South Africa, 30 October-1 November 2000 25

I. Introduction

1. At its thirty-eighth session, in February 2000, the Commission for Social Development identified the priority theme for its thirty-ninth session as "Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world". In its decision 2000/238 of 27 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council adopted the agenda of the Commission for Social Development for its thirty-ninth session, including the above-mentioned priority theme. The present report has been prepared in response to that decision. Discussions on the topic will begin a process of intergovernmental consideration of strategies for implementing a number of initiatives on social protection that were adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session as a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

2. In the context of preparation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission, the United Nations Secretariat organized two expert group meetings on social protection in Berlin and Cape Town, South Africa, in cooperation, respectively, with the Governments of Germany and South Africa.[1] The objectives of the meetings were to explore ways and means to develop social protection systems for vulnerable and unprotected people as well as to put forward suggestions regarding new mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of these systems in various country contexts. The experts, who were invited in their individual capacity, were asked to give their views on how to establish or improve social protection systems covering risks that cannot be mastered by beneficiaries themselves and that trap people into poverty. They were also invited to put forward policy-oriented recommendations, taking into account country-specific circumstances, and to contribute to the goal of ensuring access for all to social protection. Participants at the meetings are listed in annexes I and II.

3. The present report draws extensively on the deliberations of the expert group meetings. However, the overall purpose of the report is broader, namely, to contribute to the defining the terrain of social protection in the contemporary world, to review the challenges to social protection in the face of globalization and other global trends, and to enable the Commission to provide specific recommendations relating to national and international levels to promote human development and effective social protection policies.

4. The issues of enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability are not new to the Commission for Social Development. As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, at its thirty-sixth session the Commission discussed the means to enhance social protection, reduce vulnerability and enhance employment opportunities for groups with specific needs (see E/CN.5/1998/5).

5. Social protection is a multifaceted and broad-based theme. One of the difficulties in taking an integrated approach to social protection is that information on social protection — whether quantitative or qualitative — is fragmented and dispersed, often making it difficult to identify and cover the whole spectrum of social protection components. While seeking to bring to the forefront major issues, the present report cannot presume to elaborate on all technical issues subsumed within social protection. Rather, its purpose is to facilitate the deliberations of the Commission for Social Development, as well as to provide necessary inputs to the recommendations and innovative solutions that the Commission may wish to propose.

II. The nature of social protection

A. Definition of social protection

6. There are substantial differences among societies in terms of how they approach and define social protection. Differing traditions, cultures and organizational and political structures affect definitions of social protection, as well as the choice about how members of society should receive that protection. In the context of the present report, social protection is broadly understood as a set of public and private policies and programmes undertaken by societies in response to various contingencies in order to offset the absence or substantial reduction of income from work; provide assistance for families with children; and provide people with health care and housing. This definition is not exhaustive; it basically serves as a starting point of the analysis in the present report as well as a means to facilitate the present analysis.

7. In general, the following points can be noted in defining the terrain of social protection policy:

(a) Social protection embodies society's responses to levels of either *risk* or *deprivation* that are deemed unacceptable. Underpinning the operation of social protection systems, therefore, is a social consensus (which may be implicit or explicit) on fundamental values concerning acceptable levels and security of access to the means of meeting basic needs and fulfilling basic rights. These include secure access to income, livelihood, employment, health and education services, nutrition and shelter. Social protection is therefore multidimensional, and does not refer solely to meeting variability in cash income with public transfers or regulated insurance (which remains the predominant understanding in some countries);

(b) Values of social solidarity, civility and fraternity, as well as responsibility and self-help, underlie social protection. The existence of social protection systems promotes more humane societies. However, social protection regimes and the values underpinning these regimes are not static: there has been a shift in the understanding and applications of social solidarity as well of some other principles;

(c) Social protection deals with both the absolute deprivation and vulnerabilities of the poorest, and also with the need of the currently non-poor for security in the face of shocks and life-cycle events (particularly ageing);

(d) The character of the policy response may involve a range of different institutions: central or local government, civil society (voluntary or membership associations, trade unions, NGOs) and the private sector;

(e) There are two predominant sub-categories of social protection. *Social assistance* encompasses public actions that are designed to transfer resources to groups deemed eligible due to deprivation. *Social insurance* is social security that is financed by contributions and based on the insurance principle: that is, individuals or households protect themselves against risk by combining to pool resources with a larger number of similarly exposed individuals.

8. Countries vary in the way they have structured their social protection systems. The narrow interpretation of social protection has been more or less restricted to social security systems that are fundamentally occupational related insurance schemes — both publicly provided and private. Admittedly, social security remains an integral component of social protection, which in turn is more inclusive and broader than social security. Social protection also encompasses social assistance programmes for the poor through non-contributory schemes aimed at ensuring a minimum standard of dignity, by providing social services for the elderly, children and other vulnerable groups. Social protection should be seen in a holistic rather than a stand-alone manner, and should be integrated into political, economic and social goals as well as being successfully prioritized.

B. Social protection and human rights

9. The existence of social protection can be recognized as one of the great social achievements of the twentieth century. As an important objective of social policy in many countries, social protection is often seen as a fundamental right of individuals to access effective and efficient programmes that alleviate hardship arising from social risks, such as sickness, old age, unemployment and social exclusion, as well as programmes that secure income of the population through food security, job training, supplementary education and affordable housing.

10. As a concept, social protection may be seen as a further development of the long-established aim of social security. The fundamental international human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966 (see General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex), refer directly to social security. Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone, as member of society, has the right to social security". Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights refers to "the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance".

11. The World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, stressed the importance of equity, participation, empowerment and solidarity, emphasizing a more inclusive approach to social protection. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development adopted by the Summit contained a commitment to "develop and implement policies to ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health,

maternity, child-rearing, widowhood, disability and old age".[2] At its twenty-fourth special session, convened in Geneva in June 2000 to assess achievements and obstacles in the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and to decide on further initiatives to accelerate social development for all, the General Assembly underscored the importance of establishing or improving social protection systems as well as sharing best practices in this field (see General Assembly resolution S-24/2).

C. The role of stakeholders

12. In short, social protection represents a collective intervention of society to protect citizens from risks and vulnerabilities, sustain their well-being and enhance their capability in managing risks. It embraces both public and private action. The role of the state is particularly important in this regard since it must ensure the existence of adequate institutional and regulatory frameworks and ensure that people are aware of their rights and entitlements in this field. The effectiveness of social protection is closely connected to the legitimacy of the state. When the conceptualizing of respective schemes and provision of social protection is based on democratic governance, credible long-term policies and sound institutions, it creates a truly enabling environment for the development of a sustainable social protection system and paves the way in the event of the need to reform the system. It is the responsibility of Governments, acting in close collaboration with civil society organizations, to devise mechanisms to avoid "capture" of social protection systems by special interest groups, as well as ensuring independent regulation of the private sector.

13. In many countries, particularly developing countries, Governments encourage informal arrangements, including community-based mechanisms, which support a survival of the population. This approach may be valid but should not be seen as a substitute for public action in providing basic protection, especially in the context of growing global economic integration. An anticipatory approach may require innovative social protection measures to alleviate the adverse effects of globalization, particularly taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups.

14. When the poor are consulted by Governments and the civil society and identify their priorities in the design of social protection schemes, the outcomes of these programmes are usually better for the recipients. In this context, national participatory governance mechanisms play an important role in the establishment, review and evaluation of social protection systems, making it possible to take into account the views and interests of all stakeholders. At the same time, when efforts are made to make legal systems more responsive to the poor, for example by removing legal/administrative barriers for informal self-employed workers, these systems become more user-friendly and more attuned to the real needs of the poor. The costs of social protection could be reduced through improvements in their governance, administration and efficient implementation.

15. A comprehensive approach to social protection may facilitate delineating the role of the Government, private sector, the community and the family in social protection. The role of the private sector, acting in partnership with other stakeholders, is important for efficient social protection. At the same time, notwithstanding its changing nature and often fluid family boundaries, the family continues to be a central and crucial element insulating the individual against major contingencies. However, for many older persons, increasing needs for personal care are no longer provided by the family. Single-parent households are particularly vulnerable to economic shocks. In many societies, the family as a mechanism of social protection is under major stress due to poverty and other social ills; public help to families is thus essential.

D. Objectives and functions of social protection

16. The ultimate purpose of social protection is to increase capabilities and opportunities and thereby promote human development. While by its very nature social protection aims to provide at least minimum standards of well-being to people in dire circumstances, enabling them to live with dignity, social protection should be seen not simply as a residual policy function of assuring the welfare of the poorest but as a foundation at a societal level for promoting social justice and social cohesion,

developing human capabilities and promoting economic dynamism and creativity.

17. While poverty eradication remains the top priority, specific objectives of social protection may vary, depending on the country context. They may include specific, even if broad-based, objectives, such as nutrition for all; universal health coverage and universal access to education; creation of opportunities for productive work, including the effective incorporation of rural workers, informal workers and micro-entrepreneurs into the registered labour force and social protection system; effective combination of instruments — both public and private — to cover social risks; effective coordination to avoid duplication, excessive costs of programmes and poor quality; and effective monitoring and assessment to reduce/eliminate moral hazard, adverse selection, "free riding", social exclusion and discrimination. These objectives are not at all exclusive and exhaustive since every country may view and prioritize their objectives differently.

18. The functions of social protection can be seen in four dimensions: as proactive primary coverage to protect people against contingencies and risks; as a sustaining function aimed at basic needs provision; as a developmental function aimed at capacity-building; and as a social justice function aimed at social solidarity and integration. All these functions are closely connected to one another even though they may rely upon different instruments. Also, there is some inevitable overlapping in the instruments used. For example, such instruments as social assistance, social work and social services can be effectively used to fulfil various functions.

19. In most countries, social protection objectives usually include short-term and long-term considerations. The short-term measures embrace protective measures to take care of immediate contingencies, such as natural disasters. Another field is assistance provided in the context of economic reforms. A caring and inclusive society does not tolerate the marginalization and exclusion of poor and vulnerable groups. Direct social assistance is given to help the poor to come out of the above contingencies.

20. It is important that Governments put in place a national preparedness programme for disaster management, with the involvement of civil society, to ensure that the programmes reach the poor and vulnerable groups. The programmes may cover training for civil defence and action, harnessing of resources and transport, rehabilitation and maintenance of essential buffer stocks, mobilization of the media for community training and timely dissemination of information, and harmonizing of government and community efforts.

21. Ensuring protection against health-related risks due to illness, injury, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), disability and old age are among the central components of the social protection system. Another important component of short-term measures is mitigating economic and social distress due to economic liberalization. Rehabilitating retrenched workers by offering training and unemployment insurance for the unemployed are also provided under this rubric.

22. Long-term objectives are normally associated with promotional and preventive measures which form part of the long-term policy for social protection. Such measures concentrate more on increasing individual capabilities, for example through improving the health and education of communities. Reducing inequalities in assets allocation is another key component. Land reforms are one such example of reducing inequalities. In many developing countries, inequalities in incomes between unskilled and skilled workers have been increasing, so that skill improvement of unskilled workers may be considered another component of long-term measures. An important objective should be to focus instruments of social protection on the sources of risk.

23. It is important to stress the gender dimension in social protection. In many societies, women experience discriminatory treatment under existing social protection regimes. Many women are still barred from paid employment because of their home-making and child-care duties. Inferior access to health, education and training places them in a disadvantaged position in the labour market, where many women predominate in low-pay, low-status, part-time or contract work that offers limited opportunities of social security coverage. In some systems, full-time home-makers qualify only as dependants of their husbands and at a fraction of what male workers get in terms of salary. In addition, unequal access to productive resources, such as land, capital, credit, technology and extension services, has the effect of reducing incomes and savings, thereby

restricting women's capacity for self-protection and increasing their dependence on their families. Despite many government attempts to provide equal opportunities and fight discrimination, mainstreaming gender equality into developmental goals and policies remains an incomplete project in most societies.

E. Political economy of social protection

24. On the surface, social protection programmes may appear to be a financial burden for the state, depleting public coffers and reducing opportunities for investment in other priority areas. Critics of social protection on economic grounds argue that it has a negative impact on overall economic performance, either because it costs too much or because it hinders structural change. However, this approach has proved to be short-sighted and superficial. Experiences of countries successful in economic, political and social terms shows that economic development and social protection are mutually reinforcing — essentially they are elements of the same paradigm. Social protection is an important dimension of social life, promoting cohesion and reducing social pathologies. Any trade-off between public spending items and between various economic needs and the need for social protection must incorporate recognition of the long-term negative impact of social pathologies. Finance ministries need to be as rigorous in estimating the economic and social benefits of social programmes as they are about calculating their costs.

25. Social protection facilitates the process of social and economic change by moderating the costs of economic transition and structural change in the affected countries. By providing a cushion, it encourages the necessary economic restructuring. While social protection should not be considered separately from macroeconomic stability, the right to social protection should not be sacrificed to conjunctural considerations. Social protection must go hand in hand with macroeconomic stabilization and other efforts aimed at restructuring. Absence of social protection has a high opportunity cost and may lead to social conflict and unrest. Therefore, social protection spending should be seen not as non-productive expenditure but as important investment into human capital and social cohesion, as well as a necessary condition of a humane society.

26. The historical record shows that social protection evolved as an important complement to the modern employment relationship and is even more important today, as labour markets become more flexible. Social protection may provide an incentive for people to invest in education and training, thereby augmenting human capital. Overall, social protection has produced positive impacts on the development of the twentieth century economy.[3] In many cases, social protection benefits both employers and employees, as well as society as a whole, because it contributes to labour productivity, which in turn leads to economic development. The major contemporary challenge is to find solutions which allow social protection to meet increasing needs in such a way that it contributes positively to economic performance.

F. Multilateral efforts

1. Social protection programmes of specialized agencies of the United Nations system

27. At the national level, social protection reforms are undertaking the challenging job of answering difficult questions, such as the following: What is the best mix between insurance, assistance, self-help schemes, social services and the public-private partnerships? What are the priorities in terms of values, vision, stages and process? What type of coverage should be provided and to whom? To help countries make difficult choices, United Nations specialized agencies are developing innovative approaches to the construction of social protection paradigms, policies and programmes.

International Labour Organization

28. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been engaged in the development of social protection since its establishment over 80 years ago. The ILO vision is built on the conviction that social protection should be developed through labour protection and social security, in the context of distributive justice and basic security for all. As a response to the challenges of the present globalized economy, ILO is targeting its resources and activities around its recently reformulated mission statement — to secure *decent work* for women and men everywhere. Against the normative background of international labour standards, ILO helps member States to improve and expand the protection they provide to all members of

the community across the full range of contingencies: basic income security as needed, health care, sickness, old age and invalidity, unemployment, employment injury, maternity, family responsibilities and death. In the area of social protection, the objective of ILO is to identify policies and institutions that provide a growing proportion of the world's population with social and economic security. It seeks to identify cost-effective and equitable ways by which social protection can be extended to all groups, and to assist and advise policy makers on schemes to promote social and economic security.

29. Extending personal coverage has emerged as one of the major challenges facing social protection systems of today. To do so, ILO focuses on developing special schemes for the self-employed and for those working in the informal sector without any identifiable employer, urging at the same time that these schemes be made compulsory, whenever possible. Where this is not feasible, as in low-income developing countries, support should be given to micro-insurance and other grass-roots initiatives which can provide for some form of risk pooling. Appropriate social assistance measures should be developed for the most vulnerable groups outside the labour force.[4]

World Bank

30. The World Bank provides technical assistance and financial support in the areas of labour market interventions (to assist Governments and individuals in meeting the technological challenges of a changing world through pre- and in-service skill enhancement programmes, improving the functioning of labour markets, and the development of active and passive labour market programmes); pensions (to assist Governments in the creation of or improvements in private pension provision, mandatory savings and public old-age income support schemes); social safety nets (to assist Governments in the provision of targeted income support and access to basic social services to the poorest population groups, and/or those needing assistance after economic downturns, natural disasters or other events that pose major risk); and social funds (agencies that channel grant funding to small-scale projects to help poor communities design and implement their own projects).

31. With the impetus of the World Summit for Social Development, the World Bank has taken a course that substantially refocuses its activities towards poverty reduction and renews support for social development. One outcome of the participation of the World Bank in United Nations activities on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development has been the establishment two years ago of a social protection group aimed at bringing together and expanding the Bank's work with client countries to develop appropriate labour market programmes, safety nets and social insurance schemes. Against the background of asymmetrical information and different types of risk, the Bank now constructs its approach to social protection using the conceptual framework of social risk management, emphasizing the double role of risk management instruments — protecting basic livelihoods as well as promoting risk taking. It focuses specifically on the poor since they are the most vulnerable to risk and typically cannot afford appropriate risk management capability. It is admitted that at the level of information the new approach needs a new, or at least different data set for benchmarking and evaluation as well as improved analytical technique. Data to measure and assess the effectiveness of alternative social risk management instruments do not yet exist. Its future availability is likely to require a cooperative effort among countries, international institutions and other national and international players.[5]

World Health Organization

32. The World Health Organization (WHO) implicitly recognizes social protection as one of its overriding and most important goals. The overall objective of WHO is "the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health, with special emphasis on closing the gaps within and among countries".[6] While WHO does not have an explicitly formulated approach to social protection, a number of its overall policy directions are of direct relevance in this regard.

33. WHO has highlighted the importance of reducing the risk factors that pose a threat to human health, many of which arise from social factors that are indirectly related to health. Inadequate protection from such risks as poverty, lack of basic education, inadequate housing, social exclusion, environmental degradation, lack of employment and loss of or low income poses a threat to the health of individuals. It is recognized that while achieving the goal of universal access to basic health services is a central objective of WHO, some of the major determinants of health

outcomes are not directly linked to the provision of health services. Improvements on health is thus contingent on actions that successfully address risks in spheres including social protection.

34. A complementary policy direction of WHO, which overlaps many of the issues central to social protection, is to improve the effectiveness of health systems. More effective health systems are achieved, inter alia, through the development and promotion of systems that are equitable, responsive and financially fair. Fairness in the financing of health services is closely linked to the issue of social protection, in particular the overall approach to individuals' health insurance, and the risk of falling into poverty due to health problems. In the face of sudden illness or high health-care costs, people who do not have access to adequate, affordable health care or insurance coverage are victims of much higher risks, such as loss of income or depletion of household savings.

35. The basic elements of the WHO strategy to achieve more equity and fairness in health care financing include increasing the level of pre-payment for health care, by raising the level of public financing, reducing out-of-pocket financing of health services, which disproportionally affects the poor, as well as subsidizing the poor by expanding the pool of contributors to health insurance schemes.

United Nations Children's Fund

36. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) views social protection as more than just an insurance scheme or a safety net. Social services play an important role in the protection of children. There is strong emphasis on the promotion of access to basic social services, as one of the most effective and least expensive ways of breaking the inter-generational poverty cycle. In this context, the UNICEF strategy is summarized by the slogan: "Poverty reduction starts with children".

37. The policies and programmes of UNICEF employ a human rights approach to poverty reduction and emphasize the equal worth and dignity of every individual, underlining that "freedom from discrimination forms the basis for social protection and effective participation in society".[7]

38. UNICEF's major areas of policy intervention include basic education, primary health care, nutrition, water and sanitation, special protection and policy advocacy. As regards the field of protection of children, the main activities of UNICEF are to provide support to vulnerable groups, such as disabled children, victims of violence and sexual exploitation, children involved in hazardous labour, abandoned and homeless children, victims of female genital mutilation, children and adolescents at risk of HIV/AIDS, and children affected by armed conflict and landmines.

39. The principal measure advocated by UNICEF to address the social protection of children at risk is universal access to basic social services. Following their rights-based approach to poverty reduction, UNICEF promotes the principle of universality. The value of user fees as a means of financing basic social services is questioned. While emphasizing the negative equity and efficiency implications of user fees, UNICEF recognizes that severe budgetary constraints in some countries can temporarily necessitate cost-sharing between the state and the users and communities in the provision of social services. In such cases, fees should be levied first on non-basic services. UNICEF stresses that no child should be excluded from primary school because of fees and other expenses, such as uniforms.

United Nations Development Programme

40. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) places social protection in the centre of poverty eradication efforts. Through its support for anti-poverty efforts at the community and national level, UNDP is working to ensure stronger links between actions at the micro and macro levels. Recognizing that poverty is not a sectoral issue, UNDP supports a broad range of policies and community programmes where the emphasis now is on social mobilization — and on helping the poor to achieve social protection by building livelihoods that are viable and sustainable.[8] UNDP's approach to social protection envisions looking beyond incomes to address human poverty — the lack of essential human capabilities such as literacy, health and adequate nutrition are the major obstacle to achieve social protection.

41. In the context of combating poverty most poverty programmes now stress reallocating social expenditures to basic social services. However, supplying more basic services does not necessarily result in more poor people using them. In addition to reallocating expenditures to increase supply, efforts

should concentrate on ensuring that poor make use of the services made available to them.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

42. The international protection function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)[9] includes ensuring the basic rights of refugees, as well as their physical safety and security. While the main responsibility for safeguarding the rights of refugees lies with States, UNHCR's statutory role is to assist Governments in taking the necessary measures, starting with asylum and ending with the realization of long-term solutions. UNHCR's mission statement stresses its role in leading and coordinating international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems.

43. The protection of women, children, adolescents and the elderly has been accorded special and priority attention to ensure that their needs are mainstreamed in the planning and implementation of UNHCR operations. A particular means of enhancing the protection of refugee women has been to encourage their active participation in the design and implementation of programmes, including in the distribution of relief items or in social services. Another key protection concern is access to education. Initiatives have been undertaken to provide refugee children with primary education and psychosocial support (see A/AC.96/930).

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

44. One of the main objectives of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is to ensure adequate shelter for all and social services. Habitat has recently launched an initiative to promote the security of tenure, a basic component of the right to housing. Security of tenure is a fundamental requirement for the social protection and integration of the urban poor, guaranteeing legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats. By reducing the risk of losing their homes, people tend to invest more of their own human and financial resources to improve their homes and neighbourhoods. The provision of housing security of the urban poor thus acts as a catalyst in stabilizing communities, improving shelter conditions, reducing social exclusion and improving access to basic services.[10]

2. The European Union

45. The debate about common challenges as well as about possible directions of modernization and improvement in social protection systems of Member States has been an important feature of political discourse of the European Union. The need to adapt to the changing world of work, new family structures and substantial ongoing demographic changes is well recognized. At the same time, clearly expressed wishes of citizens for continued high levels of social protection provide an important foundation in the quest for changes, which would affect individuals and families.

46. As part of the concerted strategy of the European Commission for modernizing social protection, four broad objectives to guide future action were proposed by the Commission. The first objective is to make work pay and provide secure income. It is acknowledged that the characteristics of today's labour market are substantially different compared to times when social protection systems were installed, in particular regarding new working arrangements which have emerged. Adaptation to these changes calls for striking a new balance between security and flexibility as well as between rights and responsibilities. The second objective is to make pensions safe and pension systems sustainable. New strategy calls for anticipating the impact of demographic ageing on social protection systems, creating a coherent policy mix between labour market and pensions policies, and finding an appropriate balance between funded and pay-as-you-go systems. The third objective is promotion of social inclusion and combating social exclusion. Social protection, in conjunction with other policy instruments, is seen as important for the provision of minimum income benefits and access to housing and health services, as well as a means for the broadest possible participation in society. The fourth objective is to ensure high quality and sustainability of health care. It includes meeting the demand for health-care systems, taking into account the needs of ageing populations and the need to reduce health inequalities.

47. To facilitate a new, intensified debate and engagement regarding these objectives, the European Commission envisages substantive monitoring of policy developments, closer cooperation among member States in the field of social protection and extensive involvement of civil society in addressing this issue.[11]

III. The evolution of social protection in the face of a changing world

48. The concept of social protection is not static. It has been evolving under the influence of two convergent processes of the 1990s. One process is the wave of reforms that contemplate, plan or implement major changes to current social protection (particularly social security) systems by a large number of countries. This impetus is driven by the need to realign countries to recent globalization trends in terms of fiscal pressures, introduction of market-oriented reforms, reorientation of economic growth, structural adjustment and transitions. The other process is an attempt by countries, international institutions and other agencies to formulate reforms that in structure and character exert effects on society and on the economy. To this end, a "crusade" of efforts has been undertaken that aim to design the scope, range and level of social protection that is most desirable in specific countries. However since there is no single answer on to how to extend social protection in any single country, the opportunities and possibilities for changes are innumerable.

49. The challenges of social protection in a globalizing world are numerous. The debates on the nature of globalization and its potential impacts on human well-being are complex and its full range and diversity could never be complete. Nonetheless, some major themes can be isolated and explored which encompass elements of contemporary change processes in the global economy and global society that have particular relevance for the debate on social protection. The major challenges can be formulated as set out below. Social protection policies need to be able to meet the following challenges:

(a) To adapt to the changing nature of risk and vulnerability as a result of the growing global interconnectedness of trade and capital markets;

(b) To reduce and mitigate growing national and international inequality;

(c) To maintain the will and capacity of public policy to provide resources for social protection — and improve the cost-effectiveness of public interventions in the context of constrained resources;

(d) To deal with the changing structure of power and authority as a result of changes associated with globalization, taking account of the growing influence of transnational actors, such as transnational corporations — in particular to promote enhanced social responsibility and accountability of the private sector.

50. With reference to the changing nature of risk and vulnerability in the new millennium, the issues are different in different country contexts. For some industrializing and middle-income countries, the "crisis" events of the 1990s demonstrated the key significance of ensuring that capital market liberalization does not run ahead of the capacity of countries to regulate such markets effectively to guard against social and economic instability. As capital becomes more "footloose", there is a significant danger that companies may invest less in developing the human capabilities of their workforce and the broader community from which the workforce is drawn. A wide range of approaches may be needed to combat this trend, including international consumer and investor pressure, strengthened national and international regulation, and the strengthening of the capacity of corporations themselves to contribute to building social cohesion and human capability in the societies where they are active.

51. In developed market economies and economies in transition, certain phenomena have been identified which indicate a general trend towards a loosening of the traditional formal guarantees of long-term employment security with a single employer (the "job for life"). These include moves towards fixed-term rather than open-ended contracts, increasing prevalence of flexible forms of employment contract (including part-time working), a trend towards increasing levels of self-employment and the loosening of legal guarantees concerning the long-term obligations of employers. Under such conditions, social protection has a key role in underpinning the capacity of individuals to learn new skills and adapt to changing conditions and demands in the labour market.

52. In developing country contexts, the great majority of the population stands outside formal systems of social protection, being engaged in various forms of rural or urban self-employment. Extending social protection meaningfully to these groups is a huge challenge. It also raises real questions concerning what we mean by social protection, as it can be difficult to separate "promotional" activities that seek to strengthen people's capacity to sustain their own independent livelihoods from forms of protection that

guarantee a collective public response for those deprived or seriously at risk. A further issue worth noting is that much participatory research suggests that in these contexts, the majority of effective support that poor men and women receive comes not from public sources but from institutions of kinship, community and civil society more broadly (especially religious organizations). In addition, there is frequently a sense of skepticism concerning the will or capacity of public policy to deliver for the poorest. Women may be caught in the paradoxical situation that while they have worked hard to care for and protect their families all their lives, the patriarchal nature of many societies does not give them equal treatment when they need help from informal institutions and formal systems.

53. After a decade of wrenching stabilization and transformation efforts, a substantial differentiation exists in economies in transition. Some of those countries have entered a path of more balanced economic and social development, with a clear aim of participating in the process of economic and political integration under the initiation of European partners with developed market economies. These transition economies need to focus more on the social insurance side, after successfully stabilizing social assistance. In many other transition economies, however, substantial economic, social and legal groundwork still needs to be carried out before meaningful social protection reforms can take root. These countries still face daunting social assistance pressures, the alleviation of which demands coherent economic and social policy steps as well as elimination of incongruities inherited from the past. One of the most pressing needs is social protection of workers and other population groups living in small cities built around industrial enterprises. With the arrival of the market economy and the elimination of "soft budget constraints", many of these enterprises have become non-viable, while the local economy can offer a very limited number of jobs and steady incomes.

54. In many transitional country contexts (and some middle-income developing countries), a specific issue concerns the changing responsibilities of enterprises for the general well-being of their workforce. Frequently, enterprises (state-run or private) were the main providers of social services for their workforce — supplying primary health, housing and education for families and communities, as well as taking responsibility for welfare functions and caring for elderly ex-workers. In these countries, a headlong rush to adopt a neo-liberal model of state functions and responsibilities has frequently left large populations bereft of any effective institutional structure for delivering social protection and social programmes more broadly. Whatever the economic imperatives of such change, there is an absolute necessity to ensure that social provision does not disappear, even on a temporary basis, during the process of transition.

55. The challenges of growing global inequality at the national and international levels are daunting. Proponents of the idea that there is a linkage between policies of liberalization, globalization and increasing levels of inequality point to the following as potential explanations for this trend:

(a) In developed countries, international trade and technological changes have contributed to a lowering of the cost of unskilled low wage labour, particularly in those sectors exposed to international competition, thereby increasing the gap between high income earners and those on low pay;

(b) Erosion of the redistributive role of the state following changes introduced over the last 20 years in tax and transfer systems;

(c) Changes in labour institutions (reduced regulation, erosion of the minimum wage and of trade unions, higher labour mobility);

(d) A rise in the share of forms of income derived from capital (interest, profits, rents) in total global income.

56. The maintenance of social stability at the global and national levels is intimately bound in with this issue. Forms of inequality which promote growing disparities between regions and ethnic groups have particular potential to lead to forms of civil conflict, with disastrous consequences. Action to lessen growing global inequality should be seen as both a moral and instrumental priority for the international community. The role of social protection policy in terms of promoting social justice and equity is significant but partial. Also of major significance are the redistributive potential of policies in the following areas: taxation; land and other asset tenure; human capital development (health, education and nutrition); and labour markets. An effective social protection strategy should form part of a range of public policies designed to combat inequality and reduce poverty.

57. Attention should also be given to the increasing difficulties experienced by many countries in raising revenues to support social expenditures. This is due, in some cases, to policies of trade liberalization which restrict many sources of revenue (e.g., tariffs) which were previously available to Governments to fund social expenditures, threatening a "fiscal squeeze" on revenues needed to fund social expenditures at the state level. In addition to the increasing restrictions on trade tariffs, there is a broad-based move away from payroll taxes towards indirect taxation. A further significant trend is the increasing capacity of transnational corporations to find ways of reducing tax demands through such practices as transfer-pricing and the use of tax havens.

58. There is a counter-argument to this proposition, namely that by increasing economic growth and trade flows globalization increases the base from which revenue can be raised. These effects are by no means guaranteed, and if they do occur are likely to take effect only over the medium to long term. In most poor countries, tariffs have been a major source of revenue, relative to revenue raised through underdeveloped (and often regressive) domestic tax systems.

59. The differential impact of globalization results in inequalities both within and among countries and increases vulnerabilities. It is therefore one of the key concerns in the context of social protection. For example, smaller countries are generally more vulnerable to globalization and there is a need to use social protection in these countries to mitigate the adverse impact of globalization. The world is facing great challenges in providing social protection to its citizens in the presence of ongoing liberalization and increased reliance on market mechanisms. It has been observed that considerations of distributive justice are being neglected as countries are increasingly determined to opt for rapid economic growth through open market conditions. Under those conditions and in the absence of appropriate redistributive measures, the development process threatens to leave the poor behind.

60. In short, national Governments remain the major actors in social protection systems, and the capacity of states to raise revenues equitably and effectively is of obvious relevance to maintaining effective social protection systems. A truly global approach to this issue needs to go beyond the state: there is a need to examine the potential for building on existing practices and initiatives to promote redistribution at the regional and global levels to support social protection systems. The maintenance of social solidarity at the international level is key to the sustainability and development of such approaches.

61. In summary, the challenge that faces us can be summarized as follows: *There is a need to develop new interlocking systems for sharing responsibilities for collective social protection between*:

- The individual and the family;
- The community;
- Civil society;
- National and local governments;
- The private sector (both national and international);
- The international community (at the global and regional levels).

62. The development of such a network of shared responsibilities will require extensive dialogue between the various groups outlined in order to encourage the development of new forms of local, national and international solidarity to underpin the sustainability of a new global approach to social protection.

IV. Key elements in a broad policy and institutional framework

A. Supportive policy framework

63. Effective social protection policy should be cradled in a broader policy context which provides conditions in which sustainable, secure livelihoods and the reduction of poverty are promoted through coherent public policies in all sectors. Of particular concern are the following issues:

(a) *Transparent, accountable governance in the public and private sectors*. This entails establishing a climate in which information is shared on policy and budget processes; civil society organizations can operate openly; participation of all citizens in open policy processes is encouraged; there is respect for human rights; and access to justice systems is promoted for all;

(b) *A culture of improving performance and effectiveness in public service.* This entails evaluating public policies and programmes against outcomes, allocating resources in accordance with stated priorities and developing policy on a basis of evidence of needs and results;

(c) *Effective integration of social and economic goals and policies.* This means that the goals of equity and social justice should be applied to the formulation of macro level as well as sector policy;

(d) *Responsible macroeconomic policy ensuring that social protection measures are financially sustainable.* Effective medium-term budget planning is important to ensure availability on a stable and predictable basis of public funding necessary to underpin social protection measures;

(e) *Investing in developing the human capabilities of all citizens, with particular attention to excluded and marginalized groups.* This entails an emphasis on early childhood development, universal access to primary education in all countries, expanding access to high quality education and training at all levels and for all age groups, and effective universal primary health-care access in all countries;

(f) *Ensuring to the fullest extent possible equitable and sustainable access to key assets for all — especially poor men and women — to the point where they have the best possible chance of achieving a sustainable independent livelihood.* It should be recognized that in the poorest countries, effective management of common property resources is often of key importance to the poor in sustaining their livelihoods (forests, fisheries, pasture). Other relevant measures include equitable land reform and changes to legal systems to reinforce property rights of women, in particular widows, who often suffer double discrimination under inheritance laws;

(g) *Promoting the fullest possible access to labour and financial markets to ensure conditions for the greatest number to sustain independent livelihoods.* In all countries, employment markets are critically important to ensuring secure livelihoods, thus emphasizing the importance of policies to promote economic dynamism and growth and ensure equitable access to employment. Access to reliable, trustworthy financial services is also significant in promoting independence and opportunity at the household level;

(h) *Developing information systems which offer effective analysis and monitoring of poverty, deprivation and trends in well-being* in order to inform policy makers of the nature, causes and distribution of poverty, and of the perspectives, needs and priorities of poor men and women in relation to public policy;

(i) *Effective policy approaches to planning for reducing vulnerability to major sources of risk at the national, local and household levels.* In the context of recent crisis events, the need to manage and regulate capital flows better in emerging markets is an area of concern.

64. An emphasis on the above priorities is needed to create a climate within which social protection policy can play an optimal role in contributing to general well-being, the reduction of poverty, economic growth and social cohesion.

B. Supportive institutional framework

1. Provision

65. The strengthening, reform and introduction of new instruments to attain specific outcomes should be prioritized, sequentially planned, phased and appropriately budgeted given severe financial restrictions, particularly on the public sector. Attention should be given to the institutional set-ups and agencies that already exist to build upon their existing strengths and correct their deficiencies.

66. An appropriate mix of public and private participation is needed, based on a clear and transparent definition of responsibilities in the provision of coverage. Direct provision of public services should solve market failures as well as address/regulate private sector participation. In particular, Governments should identify and remedy vulnerability and the disadvantage that the excluded are facing.

67. Developing countries with large populations living in poverty and structural unemployment should introduce major steps to improve their social protection systems as part of their economic plans. For this purpose, social policies should not be subordinated to other competitive objectives.

2. Institutions and delivery

68. Governments should promote various institutions for efficient functioning of social protection programmes.

69. At the national level, Governments may wish to establish an expert body to undertake a critical review of the existing range of social protection measures and devise a comprehensive social protection strategy, taking into account national development objectives and the effective allocation of available resources. The strategy thus identified should serve as the basis for cost-effective and sustainable social protection plans and programmes.

70. Governments should find effective ways to provide social services to traditionally under-covered persons, including public-private partnerships and coordination with community-based organizations, local associations, self-help groups and others, which through clearly articulated arrangements could deliver services to beneficiaries. The delivery of services has to be effective and uninterrupted in order to improve capabilities, raise income and advance human development.

71. The input of the beneficiaries with regard to their needs and the effectiveness of delivery mechanisms ought to be incorporated in social protection programmes. Their input can be obtained at any stage of the delivery process, and providers should be responsive and flexible to change in order to improve outcomes.

72. There are many evaluations of government programmes in several countries. One common finding of concern is the ineffectiveness of programmes because of their "top down" approach, lack of people's participation and poor delivery systems. Decentralization of decision-making will improve delivery systems and their accountability.

73. One way of increasing the accountability of national Governments and local bodies is to ensure the right to information on the funds spent in social protection schemes. There is a need for transparency and social audit of relevant expenditure. The demand for transparency is a method by which people's right can be realized. Governments should formulate methods to disseminate information among citizens.

74. NGOs and community-based organizations can play an important role in creating an environment for social mobilization and effective delivery of social protection schemes. The main objective of social mobilization is to encourage the poor to create participatory organizations based on the direct and full participation of all members of different varied sociocultural backgrounds, irrespective of income, ethnicity, gender or other attributes that invite discrimination. Governments should engage in strategic planning, which includes creating an enabling framework, setting of objectives, committing resources, acting as a catalyst — especially for capacity-building — and engaging in a process of social mobilization that aims, inter alia, at putting the management of related activities into the hands of people's organizations and the people themselves. NGOs and community-based organizations play a vital role in strengthening the hands of Governments; at the same time, there is also a need to improve their accountability.

75. Apart from this, there are anti-poor biases built into a host of existing policies, regulations and laws, which cut across all sectors and vitiate any benefit that accrues to deprived communities. Social protection policies should remove these obstacles.

3. Administration and regulation

76. Coverage of various risks implies different expertise and administrative structures. For the most part, Governments should play regulatory and supervisory roles and create incentives for the sustainability of programmes that are in place. The private sector, in its various capacities, should take an active role in the management of delivery systems.

77. Each country should ensure that its national social protection administration is upgraded so as to be fully capable of managing the system of social protection in an efficient and effective manner.

78. Social protection programmes cut across several departments at the national and local levels. Governments should ensure that there is convergence of these programmes for efficient implementation.

79. Governments should also have reliable data and information on programme implementation. Proper monitoring and evaluation systems also have to be developed.

80. Appropriate regulatory mechanisms are needed for the proper functioning of government and private-

sector programmes and administration. Regulation, however, should be transparent and over-regulation should be avoided.

V. The funding of social protection

81. Coverage of social needs (social spending), risks and contingencies varies across nations. Variables playing an important role are values, traditions and priorities that States hold with regard to nurturing and providing a secure environment for the human development of their people. Legislation and schemes in place to secure coverage of these demands represent yet another fundamental determinant. Short-term processes and events, such as economic growth, peace and prosperity, help attain improvements in social protection; on the contrary, economic and financial crisis, conflict and natural disasters work in quite the opposite direction. Thus, social protection systems are influenced by long-term or structural determinants, such as beliefs and laws, and short-term events, which may be anticipated or are simply random.

82. The funding of social protection is the quintessential core of social protection systems. It shows how a particular nation values coverage of needs, contingencies and risks. Furthermore, funding of social protection schemes fulfils the functions of redistribution, insurance, and sustaining and promoting development and social justice. Although social protection systems are varied and unique between States, there are certain organizing principles that seem to be represented in a number of them. First, Governments protect a minimum level of satisfaction of essential needs through social spending/assistance/work, with budget transfers from general public revenues. Second, Governments directly or with the help of international agencies/donors provide financial support to social funds or other specifically denominated funds that help to reduce the incidence of poverty resulting from structural adjustments, the impact of disease or natural disasters, conflicts or any other random effects. Third, in modern societies the protection of social risks, such as family allowances, health care, maternity, pensions, unemployment or work injury, is employment-related and funded from direct contributions under mandatory social or private insurance. Fourth, there is always the possibility of acquiring additional protection through voluntary contributions. Fifth, in some societies, in addition to the above families provide coverage — so-called "informal protection". Finally, the funding of social protection schemes should be accepted as fair by the population.

83. The funding of social protection has important ramifications for both public and private sectors. In the public sector, the composition of expenditures and percentage of tax revenue over national income reflect the degree and type of government intervention. Some Governments grant social protection rights to their citizens and therefore universal and accessible coverage lead to large public social expenditures. On the opposite side, Governments may adopt a market-oriented approach to social protection, and may therefore regard the latter as a service that is delivered by for-profit market mechanisms. In this case, Governments explicitly shrink their social expenditures and provide a minimum base line to the very vulnerable. The mix of public-private funding is not a trade-off because social protection expenditures come from and go to the general circular flow of the economy, thus generating a virtuous cycle of economic activity. The fundamental issue at stake concerns redistribution: Who is funding what in a direct manner and what are the outcomes of such funding? Or to put it differently: How much solidarity is appropriate?

84. States should assess the range and level of social protection they render and identify whether funding is fairly distributed. Governments should take measures to improve the equity of the system and reduce or eliminate coverage gaps. Research has shown, again and again, that progress is intimately and directly related to equity in the distribution of income, assets and opportunities for all. Lack of equity and accessibility can take multiple forms. A large working class may unfairly pay the burden of a welfare system that creates a perpetuating group of rentiers at the poverty level. In contrast, a very large poor and indigent population excluded and lacking social cohesion can coexist with privileged professionals who receive benefits from public transfers, such as the armed forces or unionized workers in finance and banking. In each of these cases, Governments should seek to implement changes that overcome unanticipated effects.

85. Many countries have embarked on reforms of their social protection systems that have important socio-economic and political consequences. Reforms affect the development of domestic markets and the

relative size of the private sector. They modify the financial structure of health-care and old-age coverage, for example, by abandoning the traditional redistributive function of governmental agencies and adopting the market-oriented principle of pay for service. They redefine the role of Governments away from direct provision of services and towards the fulfilment of regulatory and supervisory responsibilities. In some instances, reforms have reduced the discretionary capacity of Governments in redistributing resources to guarantee a minimum level of protection to citizens. In these cases, people sense a loss in ownership and in their rights. The pendulum has moved too far from sometimes excessive government intervention to its absence. For example, the traditional public pension system has been replaced by a system of private pension fund managers that often lacks competition, as revealed by the lack of difference in the portfolios offered as well as "herding behaviour" by managers; incurs extreme transactional costs; has principal agent problems; constitutes a mismatch between long-term savings and growth-oriented financial assets and equities; and suffers from stagnant affiliation.

86. Social protection expenditures can be funded with public or private sources of funds, and are therefore not the same as public social expenditures. Social protection expenditures include (a) public social expenditures in education, health, housing, sanitation infrastructure (can be organized by ministry or secretary, and can be national, regional or local); (b) social insurance expenditures (for health care, invalidity, old age, work injury, unemployment etc.); (c) private expenses in education, health, housing, sanitation infrastructure that represent the private or community-based initiative that supplements public expenditures; (d) insurance fees paid by households for the acquisition of coverage; (e) "out-of-pocket" expenses to cover risks by individuals that are not covered either publicly or by employment-related insurance and that are not included in item (c) above; and (f) NGOs' expenditures that offer coverage of certain risks to targeted populations. One way to monitor progress on social protection coverage is to generate a methodology that estimates national expenditures in these specific schemes.

87. In view of the breadth of the concept of social protection, embracing aspects of health, education, social security, employment-related services as well as other areas, social protection cannot be limited to a single budget category. Rather, Governments' efforts to evaluate the impact of social expenditure on achieving social protection should focus on analysing both the proportion and the impact of social expenditure within overall government spending. The role of government is to permanently assess whether national social protection goals are being met, what is the level of coverage, what areas need to be improved, what is the appropriate level of supplementing funding with public resources, whether funds exist for random shocks affecting the safety of the people etc. In a global economy, it remains to be seen if randomness of shocks, particularly economic and social, increase or not. This evidence will help generate additional protection to guarantee human development objectives.

88. Mobilization of resources for social development is difficult without strong and sustained economic growth, which in its turn allows countries to generate the fiscal resources that are needed to fund the introduction of effective social protection programmes.

89. In countries with very small coverage of social risks due to poverty and skewed income distribution, Governments should actively pursue the use of progressive tax structures to directly provide social services in education, health care, sanitation etc. They should also re-prioritize their budget expenditures in favour of social protection programmes. A commitment to basic social protection through social assistance is particularly important to improve capabilities and to promote human development.

90. In general, however, income-earners should all contribute to the social protection programmes from which they will derive benefits. When economic growth and human development takes place, social assistance as a component of social protection will decrease substantially.

91. There are various options available for mobilizing the resources for financing social protection:

(a) *Taxes*. Extending the tax base and raising of extra resources by reducing tax avoidance and tax evasion;

(b) *Discriminating user fees*. Improvement in social services so that the better-off pay for the services and the poorer sectors pay only nominal fees, particularly for primary education and primary health care;

(c) *Reallocating budgetary resources within sectors.* Shifting expenditure from low priority to high priority uses — say, from curative to preventive health, or from tertiary to primary education;

(d) *Disincentive effect.* Reordering budgetary priorities across sectors, such as shifting expenditure from military to social sectors. Governments can use a mix of these options, including reducing defence expenditure for financing social protection.

92. Every country should come up with a clear definition of financial responsibilities. The Government is responsible for what is considered as basic protection. Earnings-related benefits should be financed out of contributions. Innovative approaches to resource mobilization, including small and community-based schemes, can be useful.

93. Microcredit is being increasingly used as an instrument of mobilizing savings and credit facilities for poor women. Governments have an important role in supporting microfinance-based groups, which in turn provide social protection.

VI. Promoting the development of effective social protection policies in a globalizing world: summary of recommendations

94. An enabling policy framework for social protection should be embedded in the context of the goals and commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, reinforcing commitment to promoting social justice. This includes reaffirming the commitment of the international community to human rights and the related obligations to promote, respect and fulfil those rights and solidarity of all peoples. Since all Governments expressed their will to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015, policies and strategies for this aim must include social protection measures as part of the broader strategies adopted to achieve this goal.

A. Recommendations for action at the national level

1. All countries

95. In designing their social protection systems, countries should define the provision, funding, delivery and administration that is most appropriate to fulfil the prioritized objectives. To secure sustainability of the system, insurance schemes should be socialized by means of mandatory contributions on the regular flow of income. However, non-contributory schemes should support the coverage of individuals, households and communities with intermittent or little income due to poverty or any other contingency that has separated them from productive work. Since the attainment of social justice rests on the principle of solidarity, Governments should rely on their general revenues to fund basic protection to the vulnerable and excluded. While other sources of funds (international cooperation, donations, foreign aid and charity) can supplement government revenues, it is the sole responsibility of Governments to look after their vulnerable and excluded population. In particular:

(a) Social protection strategies should be developed in a process led by Governments but involving extensive dialogue with their civil society, including the private sector and people in poor communities. Involvement of a plurality of institutions from these groups is important in planning, implementation and monitoring (along the lines agreed in Copenhagen and recommended at the five-year review held in Geneva in 2000). Policies should thus be strongly country-specific, while their formulation should take account of all available information on effective practice available from other countries and international institutions;

(b) This requires building technical capacity in policy development, research and advocacy for civil society actors as well as government institutions;

(c) For countries where the private sector is playing a larger role in key areas of social protection (such as pension provision), there is a significant need to review practice and capacity in the public sector for the regulation of such activity. Insurance markets are notoriously difficult to operate effectively, and in instances where public policy opts for a growing private sector role in social insurance, this is only

likely to produce beneficial outcomes if the capacity to regulate for social ends is robust;

(d) The objectives of social protection policy should be to achieve security for all through a pluralist and pragmatic approach. The concept must be underpinned by a will to ensure that all members of society are guaranteed certain minimum standards of human well-being, commensurate with the rights to social protection outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Specific country contexts, however, vary to such an extent that attempts to mandate one particular approach to the fulfilling of these rights (for example, universal benefits) in all situations is likely to be misguided. Policy must be sensitive to the political, cultural, social and economic context of the country concerned;

(e) Functioning information systems — capable of analysis of trends and causes of poverty and of monitoring the outcomes of social protection policy — are critical. Policy makers need access to accurate information concerning the realities of the conditions which the poor face, the measures that are most likely to be effective, and the institutions which are perceived as trustworthy and effective in delivering support;

(f) All national-level poverty reduction strategies (including those contained in poverty reduction strategy papers linked to the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative and other concessional assistance from international financial institutions) should be gender-sensitive, and should include consideration of social protection and its role in stimulating poverty reduction;

(g) Social protection strategies should form part of a comprehensive approach to *prevent* key risks which might have an adverse impact on the livelihoods of the poor, *mitigate the impact* of shocks when they occur, and *assist people in coping* with the aftermath of shocks. Such risks may occur at the regional, national, district, community or household levels. They vary from national financial crises to personal illness and its impact on the household. In the case of the threat of financial crisis, for example, preventive measures might include strengthening the regulation of short-term capital flows, mitigation measures might include introducing statutory unemployment insurance, and measures to assist local coping strategies might include direct cash transfers to the worst-affected people;

(h) In order to reinforce the political sustainability of transfers to the poorest, public policy must ensure that such programmes are monitored and evaluated and the results communicated back to the tax-paying public to maintain solidarity and support. Social transfer systems that are effectively run can play a role in making a dynamic, flexible economy possible: demonstrating this effect is critical to their long-term sustainability;

(i) Since widespread insecurity (whether acute as in civil conflict, or chronic as in unsafe urban environments) produces the most serious impacts on livelihood security, any potential links between social protection and policies which effectively reinforce social cohesion are critical. The development of policy analysis that can reinforce the effectiveness of social protection in this area is important. Equally, developing systems of social protection that can be effectively applied in the context of "complex emergencies", such as civil conflict, is a priority;

(j) In order to provide a framework against which the poorest can make claims for more effective public action, countries should seek to turn human rights provisions into negotiated understandings of entitlements and standards (which can be sustainably delivered). Such processes of dialogue need to involve actors from government and civil society at the local and national levels;

(k) If a goal of social protection is to achieve enhanced equity and the reduction of poverty, then tax-funded social transfers are highly effective if the fiscal situation permits this. Experience from Australia and New Zealand may be relevant for countries considering adjusting social protection systems under these conditions;

(l) Trends in contemporary societies and economies associated with globalization place an ever-higher premium on flexibility in systems of work, training, education and social protection. The old assumptions that the progress through the "life cycle" consisted of defined stages of education, work and retirement are increasingly less valid. Systems of social protection need to (i) recognize the economic contributions that all citizens make (including older people and those with disabilities), (ii) provide support to people at all stages of the life cycle in acquiring skills and responding to changing demands in the labour market;

(m) In order to be equipped to make effective personal decisions about long-term social protection needs, individuals and households need to understand the choices and options available to them. Similarly, to hold public policy accountable for its performance, there is a need for the public at large to be informed about the issues related to social protection and its role in assuring the well-being of all, especially those with specific issues of vulnerability. To this end, the importance of strengthening public education on social protection issues should be emphasized.

2. Developing countries and economies in transition

96. Most of the recommendations in the present report can be broadly applied at the national level for all countries. Nonetheless, the need to develop some recommendations specific to the situation of developing and transitional countries is recognized. Within this category, there is obviously great diversity, but some points can still be highlighted which indicate the need for general recommendations at this level.

97. Bearing in mind points made earlier (see paras. 51-54 above), one can outline the following recommendations specific to developing and transitional country contexts:

(a) Social protection strategies should take account of the roles played by institutions of family, kinship and community, as well as group-based social protection and microinsurance systems, creating an enabling policy environment to keep the "small systems" afloat and gradually link them to formal systems of social insurance and social assistance;

(b) The objective of national strategies should be to build a multi-layered and pluralist social protection system, with a mix of public and private providers in which the Government's responsibility to guarantee social protection for all is ensured. Such a system should be participatory, gender-sensitive, affordable and flexible (capable of meeting new challenges), should encourage independence rather than dependency, and should be economically, politically and socially sustainable;

(c) Substantial investment in the improvement of the governance of many systems of national social protection in developing and transitional countries is necessary: there is an obligation for the international community to respond to calls for assistance;

(d) Social protection systems should support social objectives that seek to enhance equity and equality, social justice and the maintenance of the social fabric. Systems which promote atomization, individualization and contractual approaches to caregiving may have long-term costs for the general well-being of beneficiaries. Societies may wish to preserve social protection systems operated by institutions of kinship and community as part of broader patterns of social cohesion and solidarity. At the same time, public policy has a responsibility to ensure equity and inclusion. "Traditional" systems which impose extensive care burdens on women, for example, should not be treated as sacrosanct — and it should not be assumed that such systems necessarily operate to include everyone;

(e) In countries in rapid transition, social restructuring needs to keep pace with economic restructuring. Social protection systems need to be maintained to allow rapid economic and social change to occur in a secure and stable environment. Countries in transition need to pursue broader goals than simply the highest possible rates of aggregate economic growth. The maintenance of social solidarity and cohesion is essential to a positive transition process.

B. Recommendations for action at the international level

98. The following recommendations refer specifically to the regional and global levels, and to the international structures of governance and implementation which apply at those levels:

(a) The Economic and Social Council was invited by all Governments at the five-year review of the Summit held in Geneva in 2000 to launch a global campaign to eradicate poverty. It is highly desirable that initiatives to develop effective social protection policies be incorporated within the campaign. More effective coordination of organizations within the United Nations family remains a priority in the field of social protection, and it is recommended that the campaign address this issue. In pursuing social protection strategies, international agencies and multilaterals should coordinate their efforts, avoid duplication and strengthen interregional networking. In this context, the Administrative Committee for Coordination (ACC) machinery can be utilized to fully guarantee the efficient promotion of cooperation;

(b) The Commission for Social Development may wish to consider a possibility to instigate a process whereby countries discuss the strengthening of reciprocal provisions for the social protection of migrant workers when outside their countries of origin. In addressing this issue, there is a need to consider solutions at the regional level and the possibilities that might exist for linking national systems;

(c) The Commission may wish to lend its support to the planned discussions by the International Labour Conference in June 2001 of the major current challenges in the area of social security. In association with this process, the international community may need to discuss the feasibility of building on current agreements (such as the international development targets) to outline an aspirational global minimum standard of livelihood. The establishment of contextually appropriate minimum standards for different country situations should be considered. Against this background, the Commission may wish to invite ILO to assess the need to update ILO standards in this area, including such instruments as the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention of 1952 (No. 102). It should be noted that in the area of maternity protection, ILO has recently revised its Convention No. 103 by the adoption of the new Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183) in June 2000. Furthermore, the adoption of the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, under which all Member States are bound to respect the freedom of association, effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining and the elimination of forced labour, child labour and discrimination, creates an enabling framework for people to work towards achieving greater social protection as part of sustainable development. The Declaration covers core labour standards and rights to social protection, which should become not a ceiling but rather a *floor* for progressive improvement;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of the global community to assist poor countries and regions in pursuing effective social protection, the Commission may wish to pursue its work on innovative forms of revenue-raising. The Commission may encourage members to build on encouraging recent developments, which have shown a small reversal in the prevailing trend of the last 20 years for the total of development assistance to decline. It is recognized that heavy debt-servicing burdens militate against poverty alleviation and social service provision in many low-income economies. When debt is cancelled and reduced, steps have to be taken by donors and intergovernmental agencies to ensure that the resources released are expended on social provision, social protection and poverty alleviation;

(e) Globally, women are disadvantaged in terms of their access to effective forms of social protection. The Commission may wish to initiate a process to strengthen approaches to gender mainstreaming in social protection, including setting targets for the extension of social protection to women and other excluded populations;

(f) The HIV/AIDS epidemic is placing huge stresses on the capacities for social protection and care of public, voluntary and community systems in many parts of the developing world. In many countries, the scale of the problem has changed dramatically for the worse. It represents a grave threat to social and economic development. This epidemic is much more than a health problem because it directly challenges social protection systems and effectively undermines the well-being of individuals and communities. A multisectoral preventive strategy should be adopted by the international community and Governments in order to fight HIV/AIDS epidemics while social assistance is made available to the affected population. The international community should incorporate consideration of the implications for social protection into its global efforts to help countries cope with the impacts of the epidemic;

(g) Since poverty, high-asset inequality and unequal access to public services have been found to be major causes of ethnic and civil conflict, it is imperative that Governments and intergovernmental agencies address these issues by making resources available for public service provision, because there appears to be a strong element of social protection in addressing the issues of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction;

(h) Attention is drawn to the initiative which emerged in Geneva at the five-year review of the Summit to share best practices on social protection systems among government and civil society organizations to facilitate initial learning. The establishment of a global network aiming to share information and experience of social protection instruments would give concrete form to this

aspiration. The Commission may wish to pursue the necessary groundwork to establish a workable arrangement for this, which would include reviewing existing provisions for sharing experience and practice in the field of social protection. Within the context of globalization reciprocal agreements on social security are of immense importance. Regional cooperation in such areas as the sharing of best practices and other relevant experiences in the design of social security systems could also be significant elements;

(i) With respect to the commitment agreed in Geneva at the five-year review of the Summit to encourage corporate social responsibility by promoting corporate awareness, the Commission may wish to pursue all means to encourage transnational corporations in particular and the private sector in general to play a positive role in strengthening social protection provision. In this regard, the interests of local communities are of prime importance. Codes of conduct developed to encourage ethical practice within supply chains should contain reference to adequate and broad social protection for all workers (including those in casual employment). In the long run, the state-centred accountability of human rights practices needs to be extended to non-state actors to bring them within a rudimentary framework of social governance. The social responsibility of business needs also to extend beyond specific provisions for those directly employed, and should include both those indirectly employed (through the supply chain), and social investment in the human capabilities and well-being of the broader community;

(j) Taking into account the paramount importance of information on poverty and social protection, the international community is encouraged to take steps to promote the establishment of an international social observatory to monitor and assess the impact of globalization on different vulnerable categories. There is a particular need to focus on understanding impacts on the working poor, which are often neglected in social protection debates. Such an observatory could take many different institutional forms, and the function is unlikely to be most effectively fulfilled by the creation of a single new institution. The key point is to provide independent and credible information on such trends on an ongoing basis in order to inform global debates;

(k) The role of effective knowledge-gathering and research to promote public policy must be emphasized. Certain key issues merit a concerted international effort to promote further research and sharing of knowledge:

(i) There is a need for more detailed case studies of systems and instruments of social protection in practice in order to build a stronger base of evidence on which policy makers can draw;

(ii) The impact of increased international trade on poverty is unclear since it can create new jobs but also destroy existing jobs. Governments and intergovernmental agencies need to ensure adequate social protection for workers in this connection, particularly in new export sectors;

(iii) Methodologies for strengthening the capacity to assess the returns to social protection are needed — at present it is often difficult to judge the effectiveness of programmes and measures;

(iv) There is a need to better understand the institutional incentives which operate in social protection systems — in the public, voluntary and private sectors;

(v) The issue of demographic change, ageing and social protection remains an area of concern. The long-term implications for public policy are rarely rigorously examined, and more effective research and training is needed;

(vi) The development of effective methods and institutional approaches to providing targeted assistance to the poorest is an area of continuing concern. Entrenched problems of fiscal and institutional capacity, and of governance and accountability, have to be overcome for targeted assistance to the poorest to be effectively delivered. The politics of effective and sustainable social assistance remains a major area of concern. The challenge is to identify the areas in which support among the non-poor can be maintained for such programmes.

Notes

[1] The topics of the meetings were as follows: "Beyond safety nets: the challenge of social protection in a globalizing world" (Berlin, 10-12 October 2000) and "Coping in dire circumstances: traditional and modern schemes of social protection in the context of development" (Cape Town, 30 October-1 November 2000).

[2] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I, commitment 2 (d).

[3] See for instance, Anthony B. Atkinson, "Social protection and economic performance in a changing economy", paper presented at a conference on the theme "Social protection as productive factor", Porto, Portugal, 2000; issued in a conference compendium entitled "Communications and curriculum notes".

[4] See ILO, *World Labour Report 2000: Income Security and Social Protection in a Changing World* (Geneva, 2000).

[5] See Robert Holzmann and Steen Jorgensen, *Social Risk Management: A New Conceptual Framework for Social Protection and Beyond*, Social Protection Discussion Paper, No. 0006 (Washington, D.C., 2000).

[6] See WHO, *World Health Report 2000: Health Systems: Improving Performance* (Geneva, 2000).

[7] See UNICEF, *Poverty Reduction Begins with Children* (New York, 2000).

[8] See UNDP, *Overcoming Human Poverty* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.III.B.2).

[9] As defined in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545; and ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791).

[10] See Habitat, "Building partnerships and solutions in an urbanizing world", accessed at: http://www.unchs.org/unchs/english/about1.htm.

[11] See European Union, *A Concerted Strategy for Modernizing Social Protection* (1999).

Annex I

List of participants at an expert group meeting on the theme: "Beyond safety nets: the challenge of social protection in a globalizing world", Berlin, 10-12 October 2000

Experts

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Nieves Confesor (Philippines)
Ma Fengzhi (China)
Hans Gsänger (Germany)
Brian Howe (Australia)
Phil Jensen (Canada)
Zarina Nahar Kabir (Bangladesh)
Garth Nicholls (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
Andy Norton (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Rapporteur)
Ana Sojo (Costa Rica)
Jean-Philippe Viriot Durandal (France)

Observers

International organizations

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Robert Holzmann (World Bank)
John Murray (Council of Europe)
Peter Scherer (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

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Annex II

List of participants at an expert group meeting on the theme: "Coping in dire circumstances: traditional and modern schemes of social protection in the context of development", Cape Town, South Africa, 30 October-1 November 2000

Experts

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Surydevara Mahendra Dev (India) **(Rapporteur)**
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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 1999 and 2000.

* E/CN.5/2001/1.

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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 1999 and 2000

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth". Its work and approach have evolved considerably over the years. Early emphasis on the measurement of social development and on analysis of the relation between social and economic development was broadened during the 1970s and 1980s, when UNRISD took up questions of inequality, discrimination and participation in development processes. From that time onward, the Institute has sought to promote a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to social development research, emphasizing the complex and often subtle nature of decision-making processes, as well as the multifaceted social impacts of development processes and policies.

2. During the 1990s, UNRISD became more involved in applied research and increased its efforts to make findings accessible to policy makers and the international development community. The Institute participated actively in preparatory work for the global conferences of the 1990s, and particularly for the World Summit for Social Development, sponsoring numerous workshops, seminars and conferences that encouraged dialogue among policy makers, donors, scholars and civil society organizations. The number of its publications increased dramatically during this period; and its research findings were disseminated much more widely, both in printed and electronic form.

3. The present report covers the activities of UNRISD in 1999 and 2000. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin (ST/SGB/126, 1 August 1963), in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission "a progress report on the work of the Institute".

4. During the last two years, UNRISD has intensified the outreach effort begun earlier in the decade, undertaking five activities related to the special session of the General Assembly to consider implementation of the World Summit for Social Development (Geneva 2000). The largest of these projects evaluated progress towards fulfilling the first commitment of the Copenhagen Declaration: to create an enabling environment for social development. Findings are presented in a new book-length report entitled *Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development*. The report, which synthesizes findings from 40 commissioned papers, highlights patterns of economic growth, liberalization and inequality that continue to obstruct rather than facilitate progress. Furthermore, it draws attention to the fact that while the necessity for social protection has increased since the Copenhagen Summit, resources allocated for this purpose are actually shrinking. It also calls for renewed recognition of the fact that active social policy is an essential ingredient in promoting sustained economic development. *Visible Hands*, first published in English in May 2000, is now being translated into French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

5. The Institute also contributed to preparatory work for the Beijing+5 review process during late 1999 and early 2000. Over a dozen papers were commissioned to assess how contemporary debates on rights and democracy have strengthened women's struggles for greater gender justice. Three related dimensions of "rights-based" development were considered, in particular, the relationship between needs and rights, whether democracy has empowered women, and women's rights and multiculturalism.

6. At the same time, research has continued within six UNRISD projects initiated during the previous biennium: information technologies and social development; gender, poverty and well-being; business responsibility for sustainable development; public sector reform and crisis-ridden States; grass-roots initiatives for land reform; and urban governance. Details on these projects are provided below. Information is also provided on four new projects initiated during 1999-2000: neo-liberalism and institutional reform in East Asia; social policy in a development context; technocratic policy-making and democratization; and HIV/AIDS and development.

7. The evolution of the UNRISD programme of research has been shaped by a series of activities designed to evaluate the current research profile of the Institute and to explore areas of priority concern for the future. First, the Director and staff worked together to prepare *UNRISD 2000+: A Vision for the Future of the Institute*. A consultative meeting of 25 distinguished third world scholars was held in May 1999 in Thailand. Suggestions on priority areas of concern in Latin

America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe were incorporated into Institute thinking on future research.[1]

8. As a result of these discussions, the UNRISD research programme was regrouped under five main themes or areas: social policy and development; democracy, governance and human rights; identities, conflict and cohesion; civil society and social movements; and technology and society. Calling attention to these overarching concerns should not only allow the Institute to make a more coherent and policy-relevant presentation of research findings from various projects, but also reinforce the synergies among projects. The new organization of the UNRISD research programme will be reflected in the format of the present report.

9. The report also highlights two new special activities through which UNRISD hopes to contribute to the work of the broader United Nations system during the next few years. A first initiative should strengthen the empirical basis for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in South Africa in September 2001, by commissioning papers from some of the most knowledgeable scholars and policy makers in this field. The effort, which will include a large public conference, will be coordinated with the Social Policy and Development Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

10. A second special initiative, Improving Research and Knowledge on Social Development within International Organizations, began in November 2000 with a small planning meeting in Bellagio, Italy, at which 15 high-level United Nations officials, closely involved in research on social development, discussed the kinds of problems on which coordinated attention should be focused and agreed to take part in a series of future seminars on key research questions. The first of these will be organized around the theme "Equity in the Global Economy".

11. In addition to their research and administrative activities, UNRISD staff carry out a range of advisory tasks for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes and universities. As the present report notes in greater detail, they have spoken at numerous conferences and seminars, provided input on research and policy proposals, acted as advisers to development NGOs, and referred articles for well-known development journals.

12. The UNRISD publication and dissemination unit has devoted considerable effort over the past two years to reaching new audiences and making access to documents easier. Hundreds of papers and reports can now be easily downloaded from the web site (*www.unrisd.org*). The past two years have also been very productive in terms of traditional publications. A total of 19 books were published with commercial or academic presses. In-house publications included 18 occasional papers, 19 discussion papers, five programme papers, and four conference reports. In addition, *UNRISD News* was published regularly, and new presentation documents, including an information brochure, annual report and publications catalogue, were inaugurated.

13. An internship programme provides a few outstanding graduate students with opportunities to work in an international research setting. In 1999-2000, 29 interns from 16 countries participated in the programme. UNRISD is also attempting to secure funding for a new initiative that would permit young scholars with advanced degrees from developing countries to spend up to 18 months at the Institute as Research Fellows.

14. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have long supported the work of the Institute as core funders. During the last biennium, the United Kingdom also joined this group. The level of core funding rose significantly, as the majority of donors increased their contributions. Nevertheless, increases in contributions made in national currencies pegged to the euro were to some extent offset by the depreciation of the euro against the United States dollar. The level of project funding has also improved over this period, although it is still insufficient and must be increased.

15. More information on all UNRISD activities during 1999-2000 is presented below, beginning with an overview of work for Geneva 2000 and Women 2000.

II. Special events and activities for Geneva 2000 and Women 2000

A. Geneva 2000

16. During the last biennium, the Institute sponsored five different projects that were specifically designed to support preparatory work for Geneva 2000. One of these — a Virtual Forum on Initiatives, maintained on the UNRISD web site as a means for individuals and organizations around the world to share information on their preparation for the Summit review — is discussed in the section of the present report on dissemination. The other four are explained below.

1. *Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development*

17. By far the largest project involved an effort, carried out over an 18-month period, to evaluate progress made towards implementation of the first commitment of the Copenhagen Declaration: creating an "economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment" in which social development can flourish. Eight areas of policy and institutional reform were explored:

- Attempts to integrate social and economic policy;
- Initiatives to improve the flow of resources for social development;
- Democratization;
- Public sector restructuring;
- Efforts to strengthen corporate social responsibility;
- Debates on the role of civil society organizations in service provision and international decision-making;
- Attempts to make development more accountable to women; and
- The promotion of "people-centred" sustainable development.

18. A total of 40 background papers were commissioned on these subjects, 10 of which were published separately as UNRISD Occasional Papers for Geneva 2000.[2] Several more were issued as Programme Papers.[3] All served as inputs for a book-length report entitled *Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development*, which was published by the Institute in May 2000 and formally presented at a large public conference held concurrently with the special session of the General Assembly at Geneva in late June 2000.

19. The report paints a fairly disturbing picture of initiatives that remain more at the level of agency rhetoric than effective implementation; and of patterns of economic growth, liberalization and inequality that continue to obstruct rather than facilitate progress in social development. Although there are signs that the ideological climate for rethinking development policy is more favourable than it has been for years — there has been some reassessment of the importance of the public sector, as well as heightened sensitivity on the part of Governments and international financial institutions to social issues — there has been no fundamental rethinking of economic policies themselves, nor any serious attempt to integrate social and economic policy. Social policy remains largely detached from economic policy, or is seen as an add-on intended to mitigate the social costs of economic liberalization and structural adjustment.

20. While the necessity for social protection has increased, resources allocated for this purpose are shrinking as a result of declining aid, cuts in government expenditure and tax avoidance. While public sector restructuring has been a condition of much development assistance in the 1990s, it has often failed to produce hoped-for results. Not only have the Governments of many developing countries had to reduce levels of public spending, but the task of improving the managerial efficiency of the public sector has often been undermined by the limited capacity of many States to monitor the operations of new agencies and privatized services. Similarly, while donors and multilateral agencies frequently stress the importance of working with and through civil society organizations (CSOs), political and institutional constraints often limit the effectiveness of civil society both in advocacy and in service delivery.

21. The report concludes that during the past decade there has been far too much confidence in the "invisible hand" of an unregulated market and too little understanding of the necessary relation between public policy and development. Until Governments and public-spirited citizens reassert their rights to orient economic and social policy towards more inclusive and egalitarian goals, central commitments of the Social Summit are unlikely to be met.

2. Civil society organizations and social integration

22. In mid-1999, the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly invited UNRISD to prepare a report on institutional arrangements for social integration, including the role of civil society in the planning and provision of social services.[4] Utilizing some of the studies mentioned above, as well as ongoing work within its research projects, the Institute prepared a document that was submitted to the Commission for Social Development in February 2000. The report was discussed at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission; and it was also presented at a seminar on the role of civil society in policy formulation and service provision, sponsored by UNRISD and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and held in New York in March 2000, prior to the second Preparatory Committee meeting for Geneva 2000.[5]

23. The report submitted to the Commission for Social Development highlights the recent and growing contributions made by CSOs in the international arena, including their role in policy design and advocacy. This has come about in part because opportunities for exchange of views with international bodies are being institutionalized. The report noted, however, that CSOs of the countries of the North tend to have greater influence in the international arena than do their counterparts of the South, and called for strengthened efforts by international agencies and donors to facilitate greater participation of CSOs of the South in international forums.

24. At the national level, there is a clear trend towards growing CSO involvement in service provision. More government and donor funds have become available for this purpose at the same time that reform and restructuring are weakening the overall framework for government provision of services. This, paradoxically, has negative ramifications for the capacity of CSOs to work effectively in this field. The report emphasizes that CSOs do a better job when they work within a framework established by an efficient and democratic State.[6]

3. Review of parliamentary actions to implement the Social Summit commitments

25. At the beginning of 1999, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at Geneva requested that UNRISD prepare a report on the role of parliaments in implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, based on the results of an IPU questionnaire survey. The survey was carried out in September 1998 and covered 136 national parliaments. UNRISD staff processed, annotated and analysed information from the 44 legislatures providing the most complete responses. A report was completed in February 1999 and presented at a meeting in early March of the IPU Committee for Sustainable Development, as well as at a tripartite meeting of representatives of parliaments, Governments and intergovernmental organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York in late March 1999.

26. The report suggests that national parliaments have played a considerable role in the follow-up to the Social Summit. They have helped to promote dialogue on social development and popularized the various concepts and goals of the Social Summit; and they have also enacted legislation on many critical social questions. Parliaments have frequently made pledges in the field of social spending, designated institutions to oversee the implementation process, observed specific events related to Summit goals and engaged in wider interaction with NGOs, welfare institutions and other organizations of civil society.

27. Nevertheless, the survey results reflect slow progress in implementing Summit commitments. Many countries, including industrialized ones, have failed to develop detailed national strategies on poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. There has also been a failure to meet international commitments agreed at the Summit. Although national parliaments have played an important role in focusing government efforts on long-term national development strategies, systematic funding of Summit goals has occurred in only a few countries. Indeed, most countries report few or no tangible results in terms of reducing poverty, increasing productive employment or eliminating social exclusion. The report acknowledges, however, that it will require more than four years after the Social Summit to properly evaluate the effectiveness of policy measures in national settings.

4. Social policy in West Africa

28. The UNRISD project on social policy in West Africa was also designed to make a contribution to Geneva 2000. Beginning in late 1998, country studies were carried out in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire,

Mali and Senegal to examine recent trends in social policy, as well as the role played by the Social Summit in shaping the policy agenda. The preliminary findings of this project were presented at a regional workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1999.

29. It is clear that the follow-up process to the Social Summit has not been strong in the study countries. To a considerable degree, this is related to the fact that macroeconomic policies linked to structural adjustment and public sector reforms that involve "downsizing", as well as some types of conditionality, have created a "disabling" environment for social policy. Several country studies also suggest that recent attempts to target health and education services have proved problematic, as they often fail to reach the poorest regions or individuals within countries.

30. Although there are signs of economic recovery following the shock devaluation of the CFA in 1994, there seems to be little corresponding progress in terms of social development, given the unequal distribution of the benefits of economic growth, shrinkage of formal sector employment, and ongoing problems of governance associated with corruption and weak public administration. There is also concern that development strategies in some countries are increasingly determined by technocrats and international consultants or advisers, rather than by broad-based social dialogue.

31. A synthesis report from this project has been published,[7] and a country study on Côte d'Ivoire is currently in press.

B. Women 2000

32. UNRISD focused its contribution to Women 2000 on three related dimensions of "rights-based" development: (a) the implications of changing approaches to social service provision for women's "basic needs" and "social rights"; (b) women in contemporary democratization; and (c) the relation between women's rights, multiculturalism and universalism. For this purpose, 12 papers were commissioned and a public workshop coinciding with the special session for the Beijing+5 review was held in New York on 3 June 2000. The conference report is available in print and on the UNRISD web site.[8]

33. Research suggests that, in a significant number of countries, the acknowledgement of formal rights for women has not been matched by an increase in substantive rights, or by an improvement in their quality of life. In some cases, an effort is made to ensure that women's "needs" are met, while their rights to self-determination are denied. In other countries, civil and political rights are codified for women, while the majority are denied economic and social resources. Yet obviously, women's ability to act as full participants in their societies depends both on their economic and social resources and on their legal rights. Without rights to legal representation, for instance, women cannot become independent economic actors; and without access to adequate health services, women cannot choose their family size. The increased reliance on non-state actors for the provision of social services is problematic in this regard, because there is a tendency to rely on women in NGOs or community organizations to perform low-paid or unpaid care work, rather than ensuring that public services are adequate to meet their basic needs.

34. It is often assumed that democracy is gender-neutral and naturally supports improvements in the condition of women. But women are seriously underrepresented in almost every national assembly, and many political leaders who otherwise work for civil liberties have regressive views on the subject of women's rights and gender justice. Quotas for women in decision-making bodies are often proposed as a way around this problem. Although quota mechanisms cannot ensure that women representatives actually work to advance women's causes, in practice such quotas are often effective in changing the nature of policy discussions. Once elected, women tend to be called on by women's groups and other CSOs to channel women's demands into the policy process.

35. Tension between the concept of individual rights and that of group rights is one reason why democratic movements sometimes fail to address gender concerns. Women have often served as symbols of cultural difference. If the defence of traditional practices, through emphasis on the rights of certain groups to preserve their cultures, infringes upon the ability of women to live with dignity and without fear, it is possible for multicultural approaches to democracy to clash with gender justice. The challenge at the core of the debates about human rights and multiculturalism is how to acknowledge and respect "difference" without supposing that this difference is static or immune to change. Cultures are not immutable; they always

undergo interpretation and reinterpretation. It is essential that women be involved in this process.

III. Current programme of research

A. Social policy and development

36. Within the newly defined programme area of social policy and development, six research projects explore aspects of state policies and practices that directly influence the welfare and security of various groups in different societies and cultures. Their findings should make a practical contribution to improving the social policy environment in developed and developing countries.

1. Social policy in a development context

37. The project on social policy in a development context provides a framework for this area. Its purpose is to encourage genuine interdisciplinary debate on the relation between social policy, social and political institutions, and economic development.

38. The project began in 1999, with a state-of-the-art paper reviewing shortcomings of the stylized neo-liberal model that has exercised great influence during the past few decades. This way of thinking has relegated social policy to a residual role, seeing it more as a cost than as an essential element in development, and employing it primarily to deal with the most egregious failures of economic policy. In contrast, other schools of thought, such as new growth theories and new institutional economics, have recognized that social policy is central not only to improving welfare, but also to promoting economic development.

39. A conference held in Stockholm in September 2000 brought together over 30 specialists working on issues of social policy and economic development, who discussed the paper and identified possible research areas. These include new forms of social security and social protection, new approaches to education and training, a re-evaluation of social funds, reconsidering industrial policy and support for small and medium industries, and studying the redistributive implications of different kinds of public/private health care systems. Participants stressed the fact that it is in fact impossible to separate economic and social policy. All economic policy is social policy: the way any economy works has clear social implications. Therefore, while it is essential to look at all possible favourable impacts of social policy on economic performance, it is equally, or perhaps even more, important to develop distributionally sensitive, pro-poor economic policy.

2. Neo-liberalism and institutional reform in East Asia

40. The Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998 was caused by a failure of institutions on multiple levels. For some, the international level was most important: inadequate regulation allowed speculative capital to cascade in and out of fragile markets in the developing world. This diagnosis has led to much debate about reforming the international "financial architecture". For others, the problem is primarily national and involves a lack of accountability and transparency in key public and private institutions. This explanation suggests the need to reform industrial and labour policy, private sector governance, the national legal context and broader development strategies in affected Asian societies.

41. Prescriptions for national reform are frequently based on ideal interpretations of how legal systems, labour markets and the corporate sector actually operate in Western industrial countries. Yet real practices are in fact enormously diverse and complex. One objective of this UNRISD project is, therefore, to understand the gap between the ideal prescriptions currently being urged on various Asian countries and real-world practices in Western countries. This should allow both public and private sectors to think more creatively about the range of opportunities for institutional reform.

42. At the same time, the project will explore lessons learned from previous crises in other parts of the world. During the early 1980s, for example, the French Government enacted market reforms without abandoning the institutions of national industrial policy. Time-share and work-share policies were devised in Germany and the Netherlands to minimize the social cost of unemployment. There are also negative lessons to be learned from the legacy of Latin American and African countries that dismantled some institutions that had previously provided a measure of protection and welfare for many people.

43. Finally, the project is promoting original research on legal traditions, public economic policy-making, corporate governance, and the evolution of labour

markets in a number of East Asian countries. Alternative approaches to social policy will also be explored. The institution of "lifetime employment" in large corporations is often the only social safety net available in East Asia. As paternalistic practices in labour relations disappear, will responsibility for social welfare be assumed by the State? Or will households be expected to step in and assume the burden formerly borne by corporations?

44. Over the past year, 13 papers were commissioned covering the thematic areas outlined above. Initial drafts were presented at a conference in Bangkok in May 2000. They are currently being revised for publication as UNRISD programme papers. They will also be brought together in at least one edited volume, to be co-published with an academic press.

3. Globalization, export-oriented employment for women and social policy

45. This project, like the following one on women and agrarian change, grows out of an earlier UNRISD project on gender, poverty and well-being.[9] Drawing on the experiences of women in export-oriented production zones, it attempts to deepen understanding of the relation between increasing globalization of production, women's labour market participation and social policy design and delivery.

46. Over the past two decades, the Governments of many developing countries have come under pressure to reduce their role in financing and delivering social services, and to restrict access to publicly provided income transfers. A parallel development in some countries has been growing reliance on export-oriented strategies that have, on average, increased women's share of paid employment. How have these two trends interacted? To what extent has women's increased involvement in production of globally traded manufactures enhanced their access to public services, as well as their entitlement to pensions and other benefits?

47. To explore this issue, case studies have been commissioned in China, Hungary, India, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa and the Republic of Korea. These are countries in which women's incorporation into export-oriented employment has taken place at different times, in different sectors, and at different points of articulation with the global economy. They are also countries that entered the export-oriented drive with diverse social policy configurations — near universal, though declining, welfare provision in China and Hungary before liberalization; indirect provisioning through the corporate sector in the Republic of Korea, expanding state services in Mexico, before economic crisis and adjustment; and minimal state provisioning in India and South Africa. There is also great diversity across these countries in terms of women's political mobilization, with India and South Africa representing cases in which women's constituencies have been particularly strong and articulate.

48. Several questions will be raised by the country studies: How have the role and the capacity of the State to finance and deliver social services changed since the early 1980s? To what extent has women's wage employment been accompanied by improved access to social services and benefits? Are these better than that of the general population? How do women's experiences compare with those of male wage labour? Do women have access to higher levels of education/training? What kinds of reproductive decisions are encouraged by the prevailing employment and social service environment?

49. Initial drafts of the country papers were presented at a workshop held in October 2000 in Bangkok. Programme papers will be available in early 2001.

4. Agrarian change, gender and land rights

50. Despite the ongoing diversification of sources of rural income, access to land continues to be an important determinant of rural people's standard of living. A gendered analysis of existing tenure systems and government programmes of land reform is therefore important. This includes looking carefully at the widely held assumption that providing individual title to land is automatically a better way of guaranteeing claims to subsistence resources, and thus of reducing women's poverty, than any other approach to land rights. In fact, many studies show that land privatization and the creation of land markets can increase the likelihood of land alienation and concentration, and thus increase the number of landless households — as well as encouraging a more unequal distribution of holdings between men and women. Yet maintaining customary systems of access to land can also reinforce the subordinate position of women. What is the way out of this dilemma?

51. To lay the groundwork for research, a paper has been commissioned to examine policy debates on women and land rights in sub-Saharan Africa. It will focus in particular on the extent to which different women's groups and networks advocate individual titles and legal rights, as well as their attitude towards customary law as a system of guaranteed access. The paper will then consider (a) how the actors have assessed the evidence on legal and economic change; (b) the influence exercised by wider discourses and policy commitments (e.g., liberalization and economic growth strategies in agriculture, poverty reduction strategies, the extent to which a legal rights framework has been taken as a main approach to gender and development objectives, etc.); and (c) empirical findings about the ways registration and titles to individual ownership have affected women in specific cases of reform and legal change.

52. The project is also sponsoring country studies in Brazil, South Africa and Uzbekistan. A research methodology workshop held in October 1999 highlighted four sets of research questions for the case studies. First, it is necessary to be clear about the nature of the rural economy and society, its internal dynamics and importance for the broader national development effort. These factors shape the constraints under which women can work for land rights. Second, the politics of land reform — and of women's participation in it — must be analysed. Third, researchers will study the place of land in the household economy: is it considered a farming resource, a guarantee of shelter, a basis for identity and solidarity? They will also explore the question of how men and women differ in their relation to the land in different communities and cultures.

53. Results of this research project are expected to become available in early 2001.

5. HIV/AIDS and development

54. The AIDS pandemic is destroying the lives and livelihoods of millions of people around the world. The situation is worst in regions and countries where poverty is extensive, gender inequality is pervasive, and public services are weak. In fact, the spread of HIV/AIDS at the turn of the twenty-first century is a sign of poor development — an indicator of the failure at both national and international levels to create more equitable and prosperous societies.

55. Social science research must play a more effective role in helping communities, Governments and international organizations deal effectively with this tragedy. Researchers must generate new knowledge about how and why the epidemic advances in particular circumstances, so that ways can be found to lessen the vulnerability of specific groups. They must help community associations and NGOs to take stock of their own efforts and to analyse the problems they face. Social scientists must also facilitate the evaluation of national responses to AIDS, exploring the factors that seem to have made some national efforts more effective than others. They must also promote analysis of global processes that drive the epidemic, so that the question of HIV/AIDS can be usefully integrated into international debates on major development issues.

56. During 1999-2000, UNRISD began work in this area. In December 1999, the Institute accepted an invitation from the Department of Policy, Strategy and Research of UNAIDS to prepare an issues paper on HIV/AIDS as a problem of development.[10] In late 2000, responding to one of the major recommendations in the paper, UNRISD supported formation of a comparative international network on developmental responses to AIDS. This network is made up of researchers, activists and policy makers who are associated with efforts to fight the pandemic through initiatives that improve social relations, social institutions and the life chances of disadvantaged groups. The network will produce 10 to 12 studies during 2001, which will be widely disseminated by UNRISD.

57. At the same time, the Institute is attempting to find funding to support original research on HIV/AIDS and development in a number of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Within each country, social scientists, medical and public health professionals, and community development workers will form an interdisciplinary team, under the direction of a national coordinator. After discussing a specially commissioned state-of-the-art paper, providing baseline information on what has already been done and what seems to be known about the AIDS epidemic in each country, teams will design a strategy for improving national knowledge in this field and linking the national debate more closely to a consideration of development alternatives.

B. Democracy, governance and human rights

58. The global debate on democratization and human rights can be sharpened by paying greater attention to specific problems of political and institutional reform at the local, national and international levels. Projects within this programme area provide an opportunity to learn from recent experiences in countries where efforts are being made to create an enabling environment for democratic governance.

1. Public sector reform and crisis-ridden States

59. Efficient, legitimate and accountable States are indispensable elements in development. But the trend in a considerable number of countries around the world has in fact been towards the weakening of state capacity, and in some cases the virtual collapse of national institutions of government. This project focuses specifically on countries that have been deeply affected by ethnic strife, civil war and economic crisis; and it evaluates two initiatives undertaken by Governments and multilateral agencies to reform and restructure state institutions.

60. The first of these is "new public management" reform, currently being carried out within a number of crisis-ridden countries. New public management represents an attempt to apply the principles of free-market economics to public administration. It emphasizes the downsizing of bureaucracies and the introduction of market discipline in provision of public services, as well as decentralization of many aspects of public administration and reform of a series of pay and employment practices within the civil service. While such approaches have been successful in some developed countries, and have had mixed results in others, they are often inappropriate for countries with very fragile Governments.[11]

61. The second set of reforms deals with the distribution and management of power in the public sector. Democratization requires institutions that can manage plurality in ethnically diverse and crisis-stricken societies. To further this goal, attempts have been made to decentralize power and authority, enact electoral and civil service reforms that are oriented towards proportional outcomes, encourage coalition Governments and develop other institutionalized forms of power sharing. However, like the administrative reforms discussed above, political reforms in crisis-ridden States have been unevenly applied and have produced uncertain outcomes. It is also important to note that there have been few systematic efforts to link proposed administrative reforms with political ones.

62. Ten papers have been received on the above issues and are being prepared for publication. Meanwhile, researchers continue to look more deeply at three areas in which constraint on state capacity seems especially severe. The first is employee responses to public sector reforms: management reforms create widespread uncertainties in public bureaucracies, with implications for the livelihood and loyalty of employees as well as for state capacity.[12] The second is the relation between decentralization and conflict management: in some cases local elites have reaped the most substantial benefits from decentralization, and ethnic fragmentation has increased. The third involves problems of designing electoral systems for ethnically plural societies. The research will examine two main approaches to the distribution of power in ethnically segmented societies: majoritarian electoral reforms that reward moderation and plurality in party systems, encourage vote pooling and punish ethnic sectarianism; and consociational forms of government that draw ethnically defined factions into power-sharing arrangements.

2. Technocratic policy-making and democratization

63. As democracies — old or new — become increasingly integrated into the world economy, they confront new challenges. One of these is a growing trend for power to be drained away from elected representatives towards officials who operate beyond democratic oversight. To gain and retain the confidence of investors and lending agencies, Governments are often urged to isolate macroeconomic decision-making from the day-to-day political fray, through granting autonomy to central banks, establishing autonomous tax agencies, and placing a great deal of decision-making power in the hands of the Finance Ministry. This, in turn, can alienate citizens and weaken democratic institutions.

64. In April 2000, UNRISD sponsored an international conference to explore the question: What choices do democracies have in globalizing economies? Eighteen researchers and practitioners were invited to lead the discussions, which were

organized around four panels: (a) independent authorities and democratic accountability; (b) democratization and social policy; (c) civil society and technocratic governance; and (e) economic policy-making and parliamentary accountability.[13]

65. A research network on the last of these themes is now at work in eight countries: Argentina, Benin, Chile, the Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Malawi and the Republic of Korea. Members of the group are looking particularly at how budgets are drawn up, debated and approved. This should provide insight into the extent of democratic oversight of economic policy-making in each country, and it should also facilitate analysis of the conflicts that frequently arise between economic imperatives and social policy needs. In addition, it will illustrate the very different institutional environments within which elected representatives attempt to influence the course of public policy in a rapidly globalizing world. Research reports are expected to be available in early 2001.

3. Urban governance

66. UNRISD has a long history of work on urban governance.[14] Therefore, as part of its work for Geneva 2000, the Institute commissioned six papers on urban sustainable development, which have been brought together in a book to be published in early 2001.[15] The first chapter reviews general trends in external assistance for urban projects in the developing world. The second chapter examines a small but influential multilateral technical assistance project, the Urban Management Programme. Despite its limited resources, this joint venture of the World Bank, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and United Nations Development Programme has had considerable impact on thinking about how to pursue urban development in the South. The remainder of the book consists of case studies of urban sustainable development initiatives in India, Peru, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.

67. UNRISD also acted as joint host for a workshop of the Network Association of European Researchers on Urbanization in the South, held in May 2000 at Geneva. The workshop theme was Cities of the South: Sustainable for Whom? The workshop explored two important questions from the perspective of people living in the barrios and bidonvilles of third world cities: (a) what should be the goals of sustainable development and what approaches are most likely to achieve it; and (b) how can the research community help donors understand these needs and develop effective means of addressing them? A report on the workshop is forthcoming; and a selection of the papers will appear in the Oxfam journal, *Development in Practice*, in May 2001, just prior to the five-year review of Habitat II.

C. Civil society and social movements

68. Research within this programme aims to improve understanding of the potential for civic action and local self-organization in different kinds of societies and political regimes around the world. This requires adopting a critical attitude towards the concept of civil society, which is often used without sufficient grounding in analysis. Placing excessive faith in civil society, vaguely defined, glosses over important differences between NGOs, grass-roots organizations, social movements and other forms of civic action. It also ignores an array of problems that affect the quality and effectiveness of popular organizations in specific social and political settings.

69. Over the past biennium, UNRISD sponsored a number of studies of CSOs as part of its work for Geneva 2000. Eight papers were commissioned in 1999, exploring subjects ranging from prospects for creation of a "global civil society" to analysis of the challenges faced by social movements, non-governmental and community-based organizations in various parts of the world. Four of these papers are now available in printed and electronic form.[16] Taken together, they highlight some opportunities and obstacles that popular initiatives confront within the changing national and international context associated with globalization.

Grass-roots movements and initiatives for land reform

70. UNRISD sponsors a large international network on grass-roots movements and land reform. This project, launched in 1997, initially aimed to identify and document the involvement of CSOs in securing rights to land and other productive assets for landless and marginalized groups in different agrarian contexts. Over the years, the scope of the project has expanded beyond the simple cataloguing of initiatives and formation of networks. It now includes research on broader issues of agrarian reform, as well as

consideration of emerging trends in agrarian relations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

71. The new focus is reflected in a volume, currently being completed, on different regional experiences with land reform, which comprises studies from South-East and South Asia, the Near East, southern and West Africa, and Central and South America. Each chapter analyses current land tenure legislation in the region under consideration, the role of the State in various countries, the strength of market forces in determining land tenure patterns, the position of different donor agencies and the nature of important civil society initiatives.

72. Six discussion papers on issues of land reform were also published during the past biennium. These cover subjects such as the nature of "partnerships" between leading international agencies and CSOs; the relation between various forms of property rights and participatory approaches to natural resource management; youth employment in agriculture; repression of peasants, indigenous peoples and social activists working for agrarian reform in some countries; and the relationships between land tenure conflicts and demographic factors in specific cases.[17]

73. The project has involved continuing cooperation with the various regional and national nodes within the Knowledge Network on Land Reform, established originally by the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), and now managed by the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty. The exchange of ideas with teams in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Peru and the Philippines has been especially important. The Institute has contributed references to literature on land reform themes, comments on project proposals and scholarly articles, and advice on publication possibilities.

D. Identities, conflict and cohesion

74. During the coming years, UNRISD aims to conduct research on problems of identity in a shrinking world. This will not be the first time the Institute has done so. During the early 1990s, UNRISD sponsored a large multidisciplinary network on ethnic conflict and development, which produced widely used books on the roots of ethnic strife in eight countries. In the mid-1990s, the Institute supported a network of scholars concerned with the problems that globalization poses for the construction of citizenship — a form of identity that creates the possibility of orderly recognition of difference and an institutional structure for working out the rights and obligations of different groups in society.

75. This new programme area will help researchers, policy makers and citizens address the question of how an emphasis on certain identities, and not on others, affects patterns of exclusion or solidarity in different times and places. It begins not with a full-fledged research project, but with a special activity: the generation of background documents for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

Racism and public policy

76. As part of the special project on racism and public policy, UNRISD will invite 25 outstanding social scientists and legal scholars from various parts of the world to present papers that summarize current research findings and clarify debates on racism, xenophobia and intolerance among different groups, countries and regions. This will also provide an opportunity to examine the difficulties confronted by those involved in designing public policies for overcoming divisive forms of identity.

77. Recent findings in genetics reject the scientific value of the concept of race. Advances in DNA research in the last 20 years demonstrate that, on average, 99.9 per cent of the genetic features of human beings are the same. This means that the idea of race is socially constructed. The Institute will invite an eminent scientist to prepare a paper on the current state of scientific knowledge about race; and it will also ask four or five scholars from different parts of the world to discuss the complex ways in which racial identities are created and modified.

78. Under a second theme, papers will explore the concrete policies and practices that create inequality among different groups, racially defined, and that reinforce prejudice and antagonism. Under a third, researchers will consider how different types of people are recruited into racist or xenophobic movements and how the agendas of these groups evolve over time. They will also analyse the strengths and limitations of anti-racist or anti-xenophobic civil rights groups.

79. Finally, the UNRISD project will focus on innovative attempts to design public policies that

improve race relations and reduce xenophobia. These include affirmative action; anti-poverty programmes; new forms of minority representation in state institutions; and the reform of law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system. The attempt to deal equitably with international migrants is another important area.

80. These studies will be widely disseminated in printed and electronic form. They will also be distributed at a two-day international conference, sponsored by UNRISD and held in South Africa as a parallel event to the United Nations World Conference against Racism, in September 2001.

E. Technology and society

81. The world is caught up in a rapidly accelerating process of scientific and technological change that may benefit the majority of humankind or, on the contrary, may benefit only the few. UNRISD work in this programme area draws on case studies and debates at national and international levels to explore ways of encouraging a more socially responsible use of science and technology. It also draws on broader studies of corporate responsibility — often generated in relation to social and environmental issues — which highlight the constant tension between the desire of the private sector to maximize profits, and the expectation on the part of the public that new products and techniques will meet social needs.

1. Information technologies and social development

82. The purpose of this UNRISD project is to consider the implications of new information and communications technologies for social, economic and political development in third world countries. This requires new research in developing countries themselves. But it also presupposes debate on directions of change within the global context that shapes development options. In determining the terms on which individuals, enterprises and Governments can participate in the "information revolution", the business strategies of multinational corporations play a central role as do rulings and agreements on information technology policy issues hammered out in national and international agencies. Constant interaction between private profit-making strategies, public regulation and the creative efforts of civic groups forms the background against which advanced information technologies are introduced into third world settings.

83. UNRISD research under this project includes both work undertaken in the international context and a series of studies commissioned within a country project on Senegal. Within the first category, the Institute is supporting the preparation of a small book titled *Global Media Governance: A Beginners Guide*, which provides a concise analysis of the roles and responsibilities of international institutions in setting information technology policy. This follows upon, and complements, an issues paper, published last year, which reviews some of the key global policy aspects of the information technology field.[18]

84. The Senegal country project, which began in early 1999, was designed to deepen understanding of the role played by new information technologies in development. It consists of 11 studies concerned with such issues as:

- The implications of new information technologies for growth and patterns of economic development;
- How information technologies are being incorporated within formal private sector enterprises;
- How information technologies are being used by the informal sector;
- Information technologies and the media in Senegal;
- Information technologies, popular participation and democracy; and
- The use of information technologies in secondary and higher education in Senegal.

85. First drafts of reports were received in late-2000 and, when edited, will be made available on the project web site (*www.unrisd.org/infotech*). An overview volume will be prepared by the Senegal project coordinator in mid-2001. One paper has already been published in printed and electronic form.[19]

86. The Senegal country project also sponsors a monthly newspaper supplement, titled *Les TIC (technologies de l'information et de la communication) et le développement social au Sénégal*, appearing throughout the second half of 2000 in a leading Dakar

daily, *Sud quotidien*. Each supplement contains four pages of news, interviews and analysis, focusing on a major information technology issue. Some of the material comes from the ongoing research, and some is written by journalists specifically for each supplement. Readers who collect the entire series will have a useful introduction to the field.

87. Papers already published by UNRISD for this project[20] have been used in a number of United Nations publications on information technologies and social development, including the 1999 *Human Development Report* on Globalization with a Human Face and the 2000 *World Economic and Social Survey*, which has a section devoted to information technology and development.

2. Business responsibility for sustainable development

88. While various pressures and market opportunities are encouraging some firms to improve their environmental and social record, this process remains fragmented. It is very unevenly spread among companies, sectors and countries; and, from the perspective of sustainable development, it is fraught with contradictions. Current wisdom suggests that the best way to promote corporate responsibility is to rely upon voluntary initiatives and partnerships. Despite their obvious appeal, such institutional arrangements also carry with them inherent dangers — not the least of which is the possibility that they will be used as a poor substitute for stronger forms of regulation necessary to improve the environmental and social performance of big business.

89. This project aims to promote research and policy dialogue on issues of corporate social and environmental responsibility in developing countries. In the past two years, studies have been sponsored within a number of areas. First, there has been an analysis of the political, institutional, technological and economic conditions associated with globalization that seem to favour social and environmental awareness — particularly among some sectors of transnational corporations (TNCs).[21]

90. Second, researchers have examined the changing nature of NGO-business relations and the development by civil society of new strategies and tactics to promote corporate environmentalism. Through exercising pressure, and also through engaging in various forms of collaboration, NGOs have become as important in creating a new agenda for business as have the companies themselves.

91. The contemporary power of NGOs that promote corporate environmentalism reflects a new form of consumer politics, as well as new kinds of regulation. "Civil regulation" — distinct from both State regulation and corporate self-regulation — is now a powerful force for change. Business is having to comply with norms and standards imposed not only by law or by senior management, but also by NGOs and other civil society institutions. One of the reasons for this is the growing power of the Internet. The use of web sites and other forms of electronic communication in NGO strategies is playing an important role in monitoring corporations, disseminating research findings, exchanging information and building alliances.[22]

92. During 2000, the project developed a third area of research, looking more closely at the potential and limits of voluntary initiatives, developed by the corporate sector itself. Since the early 1990s, considerable attention has been focused on the use of such initiatives — as opposed to "command and control" regulations — as a means of promoting corporate responsibility. Voluntary initiatives may range from forms of corporate "self-regulation" where, for example, individual firms adopt codes of conduct or cleaner technology, to various types of "co-regulation" where business interests negotiate agreements with Governments or enter into "partnerships" with NGOs and United Nations agencies in such areas as environmental certification, social auditing, independent verification and the promotion of human rights and core labour standards. Nevertheless such initiatives may be lacking in substance or poorly implemented, they may be hard to implement in the South or they may be in conflict with developmental goals in the South. Empirical research is necessary to help civic groups, policy makers and businesses to develop a realistic picture of the kinds of contributions such measures can make to sustainable development.

93. Preliminary discussions with a range of people during mid-2000 set the stage for a workshop, Promoting Corporate Responsibility in Developing Countries: The Potential and Limits of Voluntary Initiatives, held at Geneva in October 2000. Following that meeting, research is beginning in a number of developing countries, including Mexico, the

Philippines and South Africa. A workshop report is currently being prepared and will be available as an issue of *Conference News* in both printed and electronic form.

IV. Improving knowledge for social development in international organizations

94. In future, the comparative advantage of international organizations will rest far more upon their capacity to generate ideas and to shape the normative framework for development than upon their ability to transfer resources. Yet existing arrangements for improving the knowledge base of the United Nations system are clearly inadequate. At present, there is far too little exchange of information among international organizations, despite the fact that almost all of them have significant research budgets and generate important new insights on problems within their sphere of competence. Moreover, communication between most multilateral institutions and the academic community is weak. Although high-level officials are bombarded with information from many quarters, they rarely have an opportunity to discuss central concerns about the direction or pace of change with colleagues in other agencies.

95. In collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, UNRISD is exploring ways to provide small groups of United Nations officials with an opportunity to consider substantive questions of world development in an intellectually satisfying atmosphere. One approach is to sponsor annual retreats at the Bellagio Centre. Each residential seminar, of two or three days' duration, would focus on a single theme, for which a small number of papers by eminent scholars would be commissioned.

96. Early in November 2000, UNRISD sponsored a small planning meeting at Bellagio to develop the content of these retreats. Fifteen officials of United Nations agencies or divisions with a special interest in social development suggested key issues of common concern and proposed papers that might be written for each event. They will also assist in drawing up the list of participants for each retreat. On the basis of these conversations, a formal proposal will be submitted to the Rockefeller Foundation, covering three high-level seminars over the period 2001-2003.

V. Advisory work

97. In addition to their ongoing research and administrative activities, UNRISD staff members are called upon to act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, NGOs, research institutes and universities. Work of this nature provides UNRISD with opportunities to make substantive contributions to the thinking and programmes of other institutions and groups, while staff members benefit from the exchange of ideas and are also able to network, identify potential researchers and explore funding opportunities.

98. Advisory work takes many different forms — coordinating research projects; preparing or commenting on reports and papers; developing new programmes and evaluating existing ones; acting as resource persons; acting as keynote speakers, lecturers and discussants at conferences, workshops and seminars; and serving as committee or board members. During the past two years, staff members carried out advisory activities on at least 100 occasions. While most of this work is done on an informal basis, in some cases the Institute is contracted by other institutions to carry out specific tasks.

VI. Publications and dissemination

99. The UNRISD publications and dissemination unit devoted substantial time and resources to preparing for Geneva 2000. This included developing and producing an Occasional Paper series; producing and publishing a book-length report; designing and implementing a Geneva 2000 sub-site for the Institute's web site; and producing related promotional materials.

100. The regular work of the unit also continued during this period. In addition to presentational documents, newsletters and *Visible Hands*, UNRISD published 18 occasional papers, 19 discussion papers, 5 programme papers, and 4 conference reports.[23] Nineteen books were also published by commercial or academic presses.[24] This was made possible by an effective use of internal and external capacity. The Institute's newsletter, *UNRISD News*, has also been produced twice a year and distributed to a mailing list of over 12,000.

101. In addition, the publications and dissemination unit developed and implemented a new outreach

strategy during this period. A new set of background and information documents was produced, and documents were targeted to new audiences. In accordance with the regrouping of UNRISD projects into five programme areas, a Programme Paper series was inaugurated for each area. Conference reports are now published as *Conference News*. A depository library system was put in place, and all in-house publications are now provided free of charge to over 200 libraries and public access institutions, most of them in developing countries.

102. The UNRISD web site has been strengthened through the inclusion of an ever-increasing number of UNRISD publications, free of charge. Traffic on the UNRISD web site doubled from March 1999 to March 2000. Nearly 150,000 hits per month are being registered, and over 600 documents per month are downloaded. At the time of the Social Summit, the Virtual Forum on Initiatives — created on the UNRISD web site to collect, sort and communicate information on follow-up work to the Social Summit — proved extremely useful. Participants in the Virtual Forum used an on-line form to register their initiatives. Then, once an initiative had been entered, users could browse or search for specific initiatives using thematic, organizational and geographic keywords.

VII. Internship programme

103. The UNRISD internship programme provides a limited number of outstanding graduate students from around the world with the opportunity to gain experience in an international research setting. Interns are selected on the basis of their academic experience and interests. Students spend a minimum of two months at UNRISD assisting Project Leaders in developing project proposals, compiling annotated bibliographies and data, helping to organize research seminars and translating correspondence. During this reporting period, students from Argentina, Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States participated in the programme.

VIII. Financial situation

104. Although it is part of the United Nations system, UNRISD finances all of its activities through voluntary contributions from Governments, international agencies and foundations. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have long supported the work of the Institute. During the last biennium, the United Kingdom also joined the group of core funders.

105. UNRISD core funding has risen significantly in nominal terms since the last reporting period, as the majority of donors have increased their contributions. Nevertheless, the appreciation of the United States dollar has meant that core funding remained approximately level in real terms over the past two years, at around $2,050,000 annually. Project funds, received from a variety of multilateral and bilateral agencies and foundations to carry out work under particular research programmes, were approximately $660,000 per year in 1999/2000.

Notes

[1] For the report of the conference, see *Perspectives on Social Development Research at the Millennium*, Report of the UNRISD International Conference, Rayong, Thailand, 26-28 May 1999, Conference News. *UNRISD 2000+: A Vision for the Future of the Institute* is also available from the Institute in hard copy. All UNRISD publications can be obtained from the web site, at *www.unrisd.org*.

[2] OPG 1 *Civil Society, NGDOs and Social Development: Changing the Rules of the Game*, Alan Fowler, January 2000; OPG 2 *Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development*, Peter Utting, January 2000; OPG 3 *Public Sector Restructuring: The Institutional and Social Effects of Fiscal, Managerial and Capacity-Building Reforms*, Yusuf Bangura, February 2000; OPG 4 *Women in Contemporary Democratization*, Shahra Razavi, February 2000; OPG 5 *Globalization and Social Policy: The Threat to Equitable Welfare*, Bob Deacon, March 2000; OPG 6 *Promoting Sustainable Human Development in Cities of the South: A Southeast Asian Perspective*, Adrian Atkinson, May 2000; OPG 7 *The Political Economy of Pension Reform: Latin America in Comparative Perspective*, Evelyne Huber and John D. Stephens, May 2000; OPG 8 *Reproductive and Sexual Rights: Charting the Course of Transnational Women's NGOs*, Rosalind P. Petchesky, June 2000; OPG 9 *Global Economic Trends and Social Development*, Ajit Singh, June 2000; OPG 10 *Globalization and Social Development after Copenhagen: Premises, Promises and*

Policies, Thandika Mkandawire and Virginia Rodriguez, June 2000.

[3] See, among others cited elsewhere, Jorge Schvarzer, *External Dependency and Internal Transformation Argentina Confronts the Long Debt Crisis*, Programme Paper on Social Policy and Development, Number 1, May 2000.

[4] See A/AC.253/L.7/Rev.1.

[5] *The Role of Civil Society in Policy Formulation and Service Provision*. Report of the UNRISD Geneva 2000 Seminar, New York, 31 March 2000, Conference News.

[6] *Civil Society Organizations and Social Integration* document A/AC.253/16/Add.6 of 10 February 2000. See also Andrew Clayton, Peter Oakley and Jon Taylor, *Civil Society Organizations and Service Provision*, Programme Paper on Civil Society and Social Movements, Number 2, October 2000.

[7] Momar-Coumba Diop, *Les politiques sociales en Afrique de l'Ouest: Quels changements depuis le Sommet de Copenhague?*, Programme Paper on Social Policy and Development, Number 5, December 2000.

[8] *Gender Justice, Development and Rights: Substantiating Rights in a Disabling Environment*. Report of the UNRISD Workshop, New York, 3 June 2000, Conference News.

[9] During the reporting period, the following publications came out of the project on gender, poverty and well-being: Ann Whitehead and Matthew Lockwood, *Gender in the World Bank's Poverty Assessments: Six Case Studies from Sub-Saharan Africa*, Discussion Paper, Number 99, June 1999; Deniz Kandiyoti, *How to Get It Wrong in Rural Uzbekistan: An Ethnographic Critique of Household Survey Categories*, Discussion Paper, Number 106, June 1999; and Naila Kabeer, *The Conditions and Consequences of Choice: Reflections on the Measurement of Women's Empowerment*, Discussion Paper, Number 108, August 1999.

[10] Joseph Collins and Bill Rau, *AIDS in the Context of Development*, Programme Paper on Social Policy and Development, Number 4, December 2000.

[11] See Yusuf Bangura, *Public Sector Restructuring: The Institutional and Social Effects of Public Sector Reform*, Geneva 2000 Occasional Paper, Number 4, February 2000; Yusuf Bangura, *New Directions in State Reform: Implications for Civil Society*, Discussion Paper, Number 113, September 1999; George A. Larbi, *The New Public Management and Crisis States*, Discussion Paper, Number 112, September 1999; and Ole Therkildsen, *Efficiency, Accountability and Implementation: Public Sector Reform in East and Southern Africa*, Programme Paper on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, Number 2, December 2000.

[12] See Willy McCourt, *Pay and Employment Reform in Developing and Transition Societies*, Programme Paper on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, Number 1, July 2000.

[13] *What Choices Do Democracies Have in Globalizing Economies?* Report of the UNRISD International Conference on Technocratic Policy Making and Democratization, Geneva, 27-28 April 2000, Conference News.

[14] YUVA, *Our Home is a Slum: An Exploration of a Community and Local Government Collaboration in a Tenants' Struggle to Establish Legal Residency in Janata Squatters Colony*, Mumbai, India, Discussion Paper 107, August 1999 was published during the reporting period.

[15] One of these papers, by Adrian Atkinson, *Promoting Sustainable Human Development in Cities of the South: A Southeast Asian Perspective*, was published as a Geneva 2000 Occasional Paper, Number 6, May 2000.

[16] See Alan Fowler, *Civil Society, NGDOs and Social Development: Changing the Rules of the Game*, Geneva 2000 Occasional Paper, Number 1, January 2000. Three further papers have been published in the Programme Paper series on Civil Society and Social Movements: Dan Gallin, *Trade Unions and NGOs: A Necessary Partnership for Social Development*, Programme Paper on Civil Society and Social Movements, Number 1, June 2000; Asef Bayat, *Grassroots Movements, Activism and Social Development in the Middle East*, Programme Paper on Civil Society and Social Movements, Number 3, November 2000; and Joe Foweraker, *Grassroots Movements, Political Activism and Social Development in Latin America: A Comparison of Chile and Brazil*, Programme Paper on Civil Society and Social Movements, Number 4, December 2000.

[17] Peter Dorner, *Technology and Globalization: Modern-Era Constraints on Initiatives for Land Reform*, Discussion Paper, Number 100, June 1999; Solon L. Barraclough, *Land Reform in Developing Countries: The Role of the State and Other Actors*, Discussion Paper, Number 101, June 1999; Krishna B. Ghimire, *Peasants' Pursuit of Outside Alliances in the Process of Land Reform: A Discussion of Legal Assistance Programmes in Bangladesh and the Philippines*, Discussion Paper, Number 102, June 1999; Gerrit Huizer, *Social Mobilization for Land Reform: Historical Case Studies and Theoretical Considerations*, Discussion Paper, Number 103, June 1999; M. Riad El-Ghonemy, *The Political Economy of Market-Based Land Reform*, Discussion Paper, Number 104, June 1999; and Eduardo Baumeister, *Iniciativas campesinas y la sostenibilidad de los resultados de las reformas agrarias en América Central*, Discussion Paper, Number 105, June 1999.

[18] Cees Hamelink, *ICTs and Social Development: The Global Policy Context*, Discussion Paper, Number 116,

October 1999. *Global Media Governance: A Beginners Guide* is written by Seán O'Siochrú and W. Bruce Girard, and will be published by Rowman and Littlefield/UNRISD in summer 2001.

[19] Olivier Sagna, *Les technologies de l'information et de la communication et le développement social au Sénégal: Un état des lieux*, Programme Paper on Technology and Society, Number 1, November 2000.

[20] Kelly O'Neill, *Internetworking for Social Change: Keeping the Spotlight on Corporate Environmentalism*, Discussion Paper, Number 111, September 1999; *Manuel Castells, Information Technology, Globalization and Social Development*, Discussion Paper, Number 114, September 1999; Rafal Rohozinski, *Mapping Russian Cyberspace: Perspectives on Democracy and the Net*, Discussion Paper, Number 115, October 1999; and Cees Hamelink, *ICTs and Social Development: The Global Policy Context*, Discussion Paper, Number 116, October 1999.

[21] Peter Utting, *Business Responsibility for Sustainable Development*, Geneva 2000 Occasional Paper, Number 2, January 2000; and David Barkin, *The Greening of Business in Mexico*, UNRISD Discussion Paper, Number 110, September 1999.

[22] D. Murphy and J. Bendell, *Partners in Time? Business, NGOs and Sustainable Development*, Discussion Paper, Number 109, August 1999; and Kelly O'Neill, *Internetworking for Social Change: Keeping the Spotlight on Corporate Environmentalism*, Discussion Paper, Number 111, September 1999.

[23] Publications not cited elsewhere, but produced during the reporting period, include: Wolf Scott, *Recent Changes in Social Conditions of Countries in Transition: Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States*, Discussion Paper, Number 117, April 2000; Gøsta Esping-Andersen, *Social Indicators and Welfare Monitoring*, Programme Paper on Social Policy and Development, Number 2, May 2000; Jean-Michel Collette, *Empirical Inquiries and the Assessment of Social Progress in Western Europe: A Historical Perspective*, Programme Paper on Social Policy and Development, Number 3, June 2000; Deborah Kasente, Matthew Lockwood, Jessica Vivian and Ann Whitehead, *Gender and the Expansion of Non-Traditional Export Crops in Uganda*, Gender Occasional Paper, Number 12, May 2000; and Naila Kabeer and Tran Thi Van Anh, *Leaving the Rice Fields, But Not the Countryside: Gender, Livelihood Diversification and Pro-Poor Growth in Rural Viet Nam*, Gender Occasional Paper, Number 13, September 2000.

[24] The following books were co-published during 1999/2000: *The Accommodation of Cultural Diversity*, edited by Crawford Young, co-published with Macmillan; *Cambodia Reborn? The Transition to Democracy and Development*, by Grant Curtis, co-published with The Brookings Institution; *Agricultural Expansion and Tropical Deforestation: Poverty, International Trade and Land Use*, Solon Barraclough and Krishna Ghimire, co-published with WWF and Earthscan; *Discours et réalités des politiques participatives de gestion de l'environnement: Le cas du Sénégal*, edited by Peter Utting and Ronald Jaubert, co-published with l'Institut universitaire d'études du développement; *Ecology and Equity: The Use and Abuse of Nature in Contemporary India (re-print in an edition with This Fissured Land)* by Madhav Gadgil and Ramachandra Guha, co-published with Oxford University Press India; *Ethnic Diversity and Public Policy: A Comparative Inquiry*, edited by Crawford Young, co-published with Macmillan; *Forest Policy and Politics in the Philippines: The Dynamics of Participatory Conservation*, edited by Peter Utting, co-published with Ateneo de Manila University Press; *Gendered Poverty and Well-Being*, edited by Shahra Razavi, co-published with Blackwell Publishers; *Globalización y derechos humanos*, edited by Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara and Alberto Minujin, co-published with UNICEF and Editorial Santillana; *Le conflit libanais: Communautés religieuses, classes sociales et identité nationale* (Arabic edition), by Kamal Hamdan, co-published with Lebanese Printings Co.; *Lima Megaciudad: Democracia, Desarrollo y Descentralización en Sectores Populares*, by Jaime Joseph A., co-published with Alternativa and United Nations Volunteers; *Missionaries and Mandarins: Feminist Engagement with Development Institutions*, edited by Carol Miller and Shahra Razavi, co-published with Intermediate Technology Publications; *Oppressed but not Defeated: Peasant Struggles among the Aymara and Qhechwa in Bolivia, 1900-1980* (Japanese edition), by Silvia Rivera, co-published with The English Agency, Japan; *Post-Conflict Eritrea: Prospects for Reconstruction and Development*, edited by Martin Doornbos and Alemseged Tesfai, co-published with Red Sea Press; *Renewing Social and Economic Progress in Africa: Essays in Memory of Philip Ndegwa*, edited by Dharam Ghai, co-published with Macmillan; *Social and Economic Transformation in East Central Europe*, edited by Terry Cox and Bob Mason, co-published with Edward Elgar; *Social Development and Public Policy: A Study of Some Successful Experiences*, edited by Dharam Ghai, co-published with Macmillan; and *Welfare States in Transition: National Adaptations in Global Economies* (Japanese edition), edited by Gøsta Esping-Andersen, co-published with Waseda University Press.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Background

1. The present report is the fourth biennial report on follow-up activities to the International Year of the Family. It is prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/124 of 17 December 1999 and Assembly decision 54/437 of 17 December 1999. In the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.

A. International Year of the Family

2. The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989 proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, with the aim of creating among Governments, policy makers and the public a greater awareness of the family and of promoting activities in support of families. A major principle underlying the proclamation of the Year was that the family constitutes the basic unit of society and therefore warrants special attention. Hence, the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to families so that they may fully assume their responsibilities within the community.

3. The observance of the Year resulted in a significant record of accomplishments at all levels. These included, inter alia, greater awareness of the role of families and family issues; advancing the subject matter of families in the context of development; increased recognition of the importance of supporting families and of bringing about positive changes in the family realm; new initiatives and long-term activities in support of families all over the world, particularly at the local and national levels; strengthening and development of mechanisms devoted to family policy and research; mobilization of a global network of partners, particularly non-governmental organizations; and the recognition that, despite the diversity of families, many key issues relating to families are common across countries and regions, and that international cooperation on family issues is valuable.

B. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family, 1995-1999

4. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned achievements, the Year left some crucial issues unresolved and some gaps in policies. In particular, consensus was not achieved on the definitions and terminology related to the family, family policies and family-sensitive considerations. Partly because of this, the Year did not lead to the development of a long-term global plan of action on families, similar to the global programmes on the advancement of women, ageing, youth or disability.

5. In its resolution 52/81 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly recognized that the basic objective of the follow-up of the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels. A basic concern was the need to develop common understanding, to increase knowledge about family issues and to avoid stereotyping.

6. Achievements were also recorded during the follow-up phase. Many Governments formulated "family-sensitive" policies and improved national capacity for implementation. Attention was given to clarifying the concepts and terminology relating to the individual family member, family types and households. Family issues have been addressed repeatedly by United Nations intergovernmental bodies. Families have been increasingly recognized as objects and agents of social policy in many countries and mechanisms devoted to family policy and research have been developed or strengthened.

7. Furthermore, the major United Nations conferences, summits and meetings held since the International Year of the Family have addressed many issues and aspects related to the family and its role in social cohesion and integration. They have provided guidance for strengthening family-centred components of policies and programmes, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development. They have thus recognized the importance of family issues in the international dialogue on development.

8. Since the International Year of the Family in 1994, follow-up activities have been integrated into the work programme of the Division for Social Policy and

Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Accordingly, with a view to maintaining the momentum garnered during the year, the Department has adopted a multi-pronged approach with the following dimensions: (a) substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies on issues related to families; (b) strengthening cooperation with concerned United Nations bodies and agencies; (c) initiating action-oriented research activities; (d) substantive support to technical cooperation activities in the field of families; and (e) strengthening cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research centres.

9. In order to strengthen the consultative process with non-governmental organizations, the Secretariat held two United Nations Consultative Meetings of non-governmental organizations on the Family on 9 February 1998 and 9 February 2000, respectively. The meetings aimed at developing a joint long-term strategy and a common approach on family matters at the regional and global levels within the context of the follow-up to the Year.

10. Assistance continues to be provided through the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to projects of direct benefit to families, particularly in developing and least developed countries. The Secretariat continued the substantive management of the Fund by reviewing requests from Governments and non-governmental organizations for funding, preparing funding recommendations and monitoring and evaluating projects. The reserves and fund balances of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities ending 31 December 1999 were $484,944 (as reflected in the schedules of individual trust funds in the unaudited accounts for the biennium ended 31 December 1999).

II. Tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

11. The tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family constitutes an important opportunity to give a new impetus to the follow-up of the Year. In its resolution 54/124, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the follow-up to the Year and of the observance of its tenth anniversary.

12. The objectives of the tenth anniversary of the Year would be to:

(a) Increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private sector;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of families;

(c) Stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting, and affected by, the situation of families;

(d) Undertake at all levels reviews and assessments of the situation and needs of families, identifying specific issues and problems;

(e) Enhance the effectiveness of local, national and regional efforts to carry out specific programmes concerning families, generate new activities and strengthen existing ones;

(f) Improve collaboration among national and international non-governmental organizations in support of families.

13. The tenth anniversary of the Year could be launched in December 2003 at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The observance of the tenth anniversary during 2004 could also culminate in the holding of plenary sessions of the Assembly on the topic of families. Results sought from the plenary sessions of the General Assembly in late 2004 would be devoted to: (a) an assessment of global trends that impact on families; (b) a review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of objectives of the International Year of the Family since 1994; (c) a reaffirmation of commitments made and the identification of further actions, including encouraging the incorporation of effective family policies and programmes into national development strategies; and encouraging regional institutes to promote and undertake research and development of policies related to family issues.

14. Preparatory activities would start in 2001. At present, it is envisioned that preparations by the United Nations Secretariat will entail a wide range of activities, including an interregional meeting, along with efforts to encourage action-oriented research and the development of frameworks on family policies. The United Nations will strive to promote dialogue and consensus for furthering international cooperation on families. Greater efforts will be made to support the efforts of Governments in formulating family policies and programmes and in building their national capacities. Attention will be devoted to monitoring

trends, identifying significant family-related issues and analysing their policy implications, with a view to helping the international community to respond to long-term and emerging family-related issues.

15. While activities for the tenth anniversary could be undertaken at all levels, the primary focus should be on activities at the national and local levels. The value of the active participation by civil society should be recognized and utilized as a prerequisite for attaining the objectives of the Year.

16. The year 2004 could be seen as a target year by which time concrete progress should have been made in the identification and elaboration of issues of direct concern to families and in the provision of practical guidelines for national, regional and global actions as part of a sustained long-term effort to strengthen the economic and sustainable livelihood of families.

A. National preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

17. Governments will be encouraged to set up a mechanism for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family to stimulate, plan and coordinate activities by the appropriate governmental and non-governmental bodies and agencies and to liaise with the United Nations regarding the programme for the anniversary. Governments will also be invited to undertake, as part of their activities for 2004, sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and applied research, and concrete measures and approaches to promote the role of families in development and pursue national priorities related to family issues. Governments could furthermore be invited to prepare an agenda for national action for the anniversary, identifying specific family needs and proposing action programmes for implementation in 2004.

18. Governments will also be encouraged to consider developing family-impact assessments in their own development activities and to formulate, implement and evaluate family-sensitive policies and programmes in accordance with the objectives of the International Year of the Family. This could involve establishing or strengthening appropriate national mechanisms in respect of families.

19. National initiatives for the anniversary would be adopted by each Government in the light of its own situation and priorities and of the strategy for the International Year of the Family set out in resolutions of the General Assembly[1] on the Year and further supplemented by major United Nations conferences, summits and meetings held since 1994.

B. International preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

20. The year 2004 should also be the occasion for a discussion by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development and other bodies of specialized agencies of the global situation of families and of how the United Nations system might approach family issues as an integral part of development. The organizations of the United Nations system should be encouraged to give wide support to the tenth anniversary and specifically to those aspects of the Year that are of particular relevance to their programmes.

21. United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, will be encouraged to develop plans for the celebration of the anniversary. Within the parameters of the mandates of United Nations organizations and agencies, regional and global cooperation will be promoted and strengthened to support national action. This will entail enhancing advisory services provided to Governments upon their request, with a view to increasing their capacity related to family policies. The dissemination of information relating to the family and the sharing of experiences between countries should be facilitated. Furthermore, research activities on emerging and specific family issues should be carried out in cooperation with national, regional and international organizations and academic institutions. This would facilitate the exchange of information and stimulate international cooperation in the field of family research.

C. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

22. As the lead entity for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the Department will stimulate and coordinate activities for the preparation

for and observance of the anniversary. To that end, activities will be undertaken on the following five main substantive themes: approaches to family policy development; technology and its impact on the family; parental roles and intra-familial support systems; statistics and indicators for family well-being; and HIV/AIDS and its impact on families.

23. The Department will support the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Council on the tenth anniversary of the Year. Reports and results of expert group meetings will assist the intergovernmental bodies in monitoring the progress achieved in the preparations for the tenth anniversary and provide relevant analysis and information to support the debate on relevant family policy issues.

24. The Department will undertake a broad campaign to promote the observance of the tenth anniversary at all levels. This will include activities such as the promotion of the annual observance of the International Day of Families inter alia to encourage the active celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national and local levels; advocacy about the importance of family issues in social development planning; and awareness-raising on the pivotal role of families and on their specific needs.

25. The Department will also undertake studies to increase the knowledge and information about relevant trends in the area of families. The studies will seek to enhance the capacity of Governments for formulating, implementing and evaluating family-related policies and programmes. More specifically, the Secretariat will undertake a study on information and educational technology and its impact on families in selected countries. The study will provide Governments with increased knowledge and enable them to make informed policy options as to how they will operate in the information age and assist in empowering families.

26. The United Nations recently completed two studies on family issues, entitled "A survey of family policies and programmes of eight selected countries"[2] and "Families and the world of work: four case studies".[3] A database on family policy has been created, the web site of the Family Unit is periodically updated to facilitate access to information about the work of the United Nations in the arena of families and a directory of national mechanisms on the family will be prepared.

27. The United Nations will hold an expert meeting in 2002 in cooperation with concerned partners. The meeting will aim to identify major regional trends affecting families and to exchange regional information on approaches for developing sustainable family policies. Governments are also encouraged to host national and regional meetings.

28. In order to assist Governments in addressing national priorities and emphasizing the family perspective in development planning, the United Nations will strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions, in particular at the national and local levels, through the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities. This will be accomplished by promoting family-specific pilot activities and programmes and supporting policy development in least developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

29. Major demographic, economic, cultural and social changes have affected both the family as an institution and family members as individuals. In that context, Governments have striven to undertake actions to support and strengthen the family as a basic unit of society in the performance of its central functions. This requires an increased understanding of the problems and the current and future role of the family as an institution in different socio-economic and cultural conditions. It also calls for a further examination of national experiences with family-related policies. The tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family can be the occasion to reflect on those issues.

30. In this regard, the following recommendations are proposed for consideration by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development:

(a) The Commission could review the proposals contained in the present report on the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and recommend, through the Council and the General Assembly, that the preparations for the tenth anniversary proceed along those lines;

(b) The Commission for Social Development, during its thirty-ninth session in February 2001, may wish to review the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as part of its multi-year programme of work;

(c) For effective policy in the area of the family, special attention needs to be directed to strengthening national capacities for policy analysis, formulating of options and evaluation. Political will and commitment, the provision of adequate resource, infrastructure and personnel are key factors impacting on the situation of families;

(d) Within the context of preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary, the resources of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities need to be increased to assist Governments in formulating and implementing family-related policies and programmes;

(e) Research and academic institutions should be actively involved in the tenth anniversary in the related policy research. Partnerships should be strengthened between the producers and users of family-related research;

(f) During the preparations for the tenth anniversary, interaction between non-governmental organizations and families should be strengthened, with a view to mobilizing public opinion, contributing to the dialogue on international families and developing a culture of partnership.

Notes

[1] Resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997 and 54/124 of 17 December 1999.

[2] Ireland, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago (in print).

[3] Argentina, Egypt, India and the Netherlands. United Nations publication, Sales No. 00.IV.5.

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The role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 55/57, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit his note transmitting the contribution of the United Nations Volunteers programme to the preparations for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development.

2. In response to that request, delegations are referred to the document entitled "Review reports and proposals for further action and initiatives submitted by organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations: contribution from the United Nations Volunteers Programme" (A/AC.253/16/Add.7).

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

The role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its decision 2000/238, the Economic and Social Council decided on the provisional agenda for the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, which included, under the item entitled "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development", consideration of two themes: (a) a priority theme of enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world; and (b) a sub-theme of the role of volunteerism in the promotion of social development.

2. In its resolution 1996/60, the Economic and Social Council had decided that the Commission for Social Development should establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society so as to enhance the exchange of information and experience, knowledge and understanding of social development. Further, in its resolution 1996/7, the Council reaffirmed the need for ensuring an effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners and the major groups as defined in Agenda 21,[1] including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit,[3] and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level.

3. Accordingly, in preparing for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission, and in response to the expressed intentions of the Council, the United Nations Volunteers organized a round table discussion of the sub-theme, hosted by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Government of the Netherlands and held at The Hague on 2 and 3 November 2000. The discussion brought together a number of experts to

* E/CN.5/2001/1.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992, Vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), Chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

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consider ways that volunteerism and voluntary action is manifested in different cultures.

4. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/25, requested the Commission to make appropriate suggestions and recommendations to the General Assembly to further the contribution of volunteering to social development. It is expected that the Commission for Social Development will relate the question of volunteerism to efforts to eradicate poverty, to promote employment, to enhance social integration -- including empowering disadvantaged and vulnerable groups — and to increase awareness of major and rapid changes in many areas of life, including globalization, which are having a profound impact on societies everywhere. The attached report, prepared on the basis of the round table discussion, is submitted as background for the deliberations of the Commission.

Annex

Volunteering and social development: below the waterline of public visibility

Background

1. At the 81st plenary meeting of its fifty-fifth session, on 4 December 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/57, in which the Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to make appropriate suggestions and recommendations to the General Assembly to further the contribution of volunteering to social development. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that two plenary meetings of its fifty-sixth session, in 2001, would be devoted to volunteering and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for discussion on that occasion on ways Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering. The thirty-ninth meeting of the Commission is expected to make an important contribution to that report.

2. Three substantive discussions have already taken place on the subject. The first, an expert working group meeting on volunteering and social development, was organized by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in November 1999 in New York to provide inputs for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly[1] entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva in June 2000. The meeting, attended by a broad cross-section of international experts from government, civil society and the private sector, looked at definitions and benefits of volunteering in its various forms and made some preliminary proposals on how Governments may facilitate voluntary action.

3. Following on from this initiative, the twenty-fourth special session, agreed that the involvement of volunteers in social development should be promoted, inter alia, "by encouraging Governments to develop comprehensive strategies and programmes, by raising public awareness about the value and opportunities of volunteerism and by facilitating an enabling environment for individuals and other actors of civil society to engage in, and the public sector to support, voluntary activities".

4. The second discussion on volunteering and the role of the State was held in May 2000 in Hilversum, the Netherlands. Organized by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Government of the Netherlands, the meeting was attended by government officials from 18 countries, who considered some of the elements needed to design effective government policies towards volunteering.

5. A third round table discussion was held in November 2000, also supported by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports. There, a group of experts from developing countries discussed ways in which volunteering and voluntary action are manifested in different cultures, and drew conclusions as to government action that could facilitate the growth of domestic volunteerism.

Introduction

6. Volunteering under its many names and guises is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing in most cultures. Be it understood as mutual aid, helping the less fortunate, caring and service, or participation and campaigning, voluntary action is an expression of people's willingness and capacity to freely undertake to help others and improve society in the spirit of reciprocity. It brings significant benefits to individuals and communities and helps to nurture and sustain a richer social texture and a stronger sense of mutual trust and cohesion. Volunteering constitutes an enormous reservoir of skills, energy and local knowledge which can assist Governments in carrying out more targeted, efficient, participatory and transparent public programmes and policies. However, it is unusual for volunteering to be recognized as a strategic resource that can be positively influenced by public policy and even rarer for it to be factored into national and international development strategies.

7. The International Year of Volunteers (2001) offers a unique opportunity to make significant progress in bridging the gap between the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-24/8/Rev.1), chap. 3.

acknowledgement of a long-standing tradition of voluntary action on the one hand, and a recognition of its potential as a major national asset for promoting social development, on the other. This calls for generating in all sectors of society — government, non-governmental organizations, business, media, the educational system and philanthropic organizations — a clearer awareness of the contribution of voluntary action as a valued component of social development. Once this recognition is clearly and unambiguously established, the way is clear for Governments, in consultation with all other partners in development, to come up with their own proposals and recommendations to foster and sustain the environment and organizational infrastructure needed to strengthen volunteerism within each national context.

8. The present paper is divided into three segments. The first discusses the spirit of volunteering, trying to recapture its human and community dimension, as well as its constituent and irreducible diversity. The second deals with the crucial challenge of linking voluntary action with social development strategies. The third explores possible avenues for government support of volunteering in the context of the unprecedented opportunities offered by the International Year.

Segment 1: The spirit of volunteerism

9. Volunteering is both a habit of the heart and a civic virtue. It is an action deeply rooted in the human spirit with a far-reaching social and cultural impact. Listening to, being concerned with and responding to the needs of others are evidence of the highest human motivation. Human beings help each other out of love and compassion. Yet, in its deepest spiritual dimension and symbolic meaning, volunteering is not simply something that we do for others. Our own values and humanity are at stake: we are what we give.

10. There is also an element of enlightened self-interest in all human behaviour. ("What I do for you today, you may do for me tomorrow.") Solidarity and self-interest coexist in peoples' minds when they give time. Moreover, ties of mutual trust and emotional connection give people a personal stake in the welfare of others. In this sense, volunteering is a freely assumed moral obligation. We help one another because we feel a sense of satisfaction in fulfilling a moral compulsion to do so. It is not an action imposed by an external authority. Volunteering as mutual aid and self-help is predicated on trustworthiness and expectations, that is, there is an underlying notion that the favour will be repaid. By caring and sharing, we become more fully human while, at the same time, enhancing the moral texture of our communities, the social fabric of our societies.

11. Nothing here is new. Caring and sharing have been a major component of human behaviour throughout civilization. Communities have always looked after the weakest and the most vulnerable of their members. Most religions emphasize the core values of caring for the poor, the sick and the destitute, for widows and orphans. Some extend these manifestations of compassion and sympathy beyond humans and into the whole of nature. These long-standing traditions, with roots that go back to time immemorial, are very much alive and vital in the contemporary world. The values of caring and sharing are not a nostalgic relic from the past, something doomed to become increasingly irrelevant as societies grow in complexity in the face of such challenges as urbanization, development and globalization. Caring and sharing are a necessity, not a charitable act.

12. To use contemporary words, participation and responsibility are at the very heart of active citizenship and good governance. Civic engagement, mutual trust, solidarity and reciprocity, grounded in social relations marked by shared understandings and a sense of common obligations, are mutually-reinforcing values. Data collected from both the industrialized and developing world indicate that traditions of trust and mutual help are not withering away. The values that these traditions encapsulate continue to make sense. In today's world, maybe more than ever before, it is this web of social connectedness that constitutes the most basic and irreplaceable safety net protecting the powerless from social atomization, despair, destitution, abuse and fear.

13. Although they endure and thrive, these networks of interaction are often not properly understood and valued and exist at the edges of organized society. As a result, mainstream development policies and programmes fail to build on an amazing wealth of human experience, made up of informal rules of solidarity, emotional bonds and social ties. The lack of awareness and knowledge about what happens below the waterline of public visibility inhibits Governments and other development actors from establishing partnerships and synergy with the very reservoirs of

energetic solidarity that enable and empower society. These attributes of social capital should be seen as an indispensable component of any strategy aimed at promoting social integration, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

14. People who trust and support each other tend to be more sensitive to the needs of the underprivileged, more tolerant of ethnic and religious diversity and more concerned with the well-being of unknown and distant peoples. The lessons of trust learned through voluntary action teach us to extend our localized moral commitments to people we will never personally know. For contemporary examples of this ethical phenomenon, one need look no farther than the massive movements to safeguard peace, human rights and the environment, and the recent global campaign against landmines. These realities reflect the rich interplay between local commitment and global outreach and highlight the enormous variety of voluntary initiatives.

15. On the other hand, the breakdown of basic community values, norms, and social relationships tends to be associated with the curtailment of voluntary action. In situations of social disintegration, people tend to take care of themselves rather than think of others. Levels of trust and social cohesiveness are greatly reduced. By the same token, volunteering can serve as a key source of reconciliation and reconstruction in divided societies, particularly where it cuts across ethnic, religious, age, income and gender lines. Restoring or building up trust should be a key policy measure in any post-conflict situation, as this will encourage solidarity and, as one expression of this, voluntary action.

16. Volunteering takes many shapes and forms. From one-on-one support at a personal level to community service, from mutual support in self-help groups to participation in broad-based movements and campaigns, voluntary action is as varied as the creativity of the volunteers, the nature of national settings and the breadth of problems. The common thread in this diversity is the fact that, in a world threatened by uncertainty and risk, volunteering provides a strong platform for reconnecting people who have become increasingly divided by gulfs of wealth, culture, religion, ethnicity, age and gender. In an age of instantaneous communication and global awareness, society's reliance on the healing power of inspiring, committed action for the public good is undiminished.

Segment 2: Harnessing the potential of voluntary action for social development

17. Governments are well positioned to play a leading role in devising innovative ways to articulate and harness voluntary action in support of their social policies and programmes. The challenge is not to replace the all-providing government paradigm with that of the self-reliant community, but rather to integrate them in a mutually reinforcing way. Neither Governments nor civil society can meet the challenges of equitable and sustainable development. They need to cooperate and complement each other.

18. In the search for a balance of duties and responsibilities, a crucial first step is to agree on some fundamental assumptions:

(a) There need be no contradiction between the duties of the State in providing public services and the responsibilities of the citizens to ensure that the benefits derived from those services is maximized;

(b) There need be no contradiction between "top-down" public policies and "bottom-up" community initiatives, between the offer of services and the strengthening of local voluntary initiatives;

(c) There need be no contradiction between, on the one hand, voluntary action as a form of social commitment and, on the other, productive employment as evidenced by the espousal of volunteering among their own memberships by organizations representing labour.

19. The next step is to gather and process data about the positive impact of social support networks and, where it exists, of their linkage and synergy with government actions. This can dispel fears and help to build and sustain new relationships of trust, dialogue and cooperation.

20. Reliance on voluntary action is in no way a rationale for government downsizing, nor is it an excuse to exploit volunteers' unpaid work. In welcoming and expanding its network of partners a Government does not curtail its legitimate role and responsibility. Partnership-building should not be a strategy dictated by a shortage of public funds, no matter how real this problem may be, if the hoped for result is the full collaboration on the part of all stakeholders. The argument in favour of citizen

participation is based on a win/win strategy, not a confrontational one or a second best option. Public/private partnerships are desirable insofar as they increase the efficiency and outreach of government programmes, as well as strengthening people's and community's trust in themselves and in their Government.

21. Trust between public and private partners must be nurtured. Alliances involving multiple partners will be best served if they are flexible, action-oriented and problem-solving, so as to build on their own success. Where synergies between the Government and the public are established, experience shows that voluntary action does not constitute a risk for Governments. On the contrary, volunteers are more likely to be partners than rivals or opponents, and the pool of skills and resources available to the State is increased, not reduced.

22. In many parts of the industrialized and developing world, for example, educational reform based on a public/private partnership has illustrated the benefits of opening up schools to the participation of parents and the community. Evaluations of national programmes indicate that when parents are involved in children's education, the school's performance markedly improves. Day-to-day management gains in efficiency; horizontal dialogue between teachers and parents becomes the rule rather than the exception; there is greater community support to at-risk students; and waste of resources and political patronage are drastically curtailed.

23. Similar positive correlations occur when people and communities are involved in the provision of basic health-care services. Social connectedness matters for the preservation of people's physical and emotional health. The provision of health services for the disabled, preventative outreach, and the physical condition of hospitals themselves has benefited from the systematic involvement of volunteers, in partnership with officialdom. Attitudes towards government health workers are often improved when local people's active support is sought. People's full involvement in safeguarding their own personal and collective well-being is a pre-condition of any successful primary health-care approach.

24. The widespread outpouring of voluntary commitment that occurs when societies are faced with unexpected crisis situations is being increasingly documented. Voluntary action is no less invaluable in times of more lasting and daunting national emergencies, such as the scourge of HIV/AIDS. The experience of countries as diverse as Brazil, Senegal, Thailand and Uganda demonstrates that the AIDS pandemic can only be addressed if the broadest partnership and synergy is established between government programmes and the often spontaneous initiatives of community associations, women's organizations, religious leaders, educators, health professionals, artists and entertainers, university, the media and the private business sector.

25. The message of this example, like many others, is that when voluntary action is taken account of and factored into development policies, these trends reinforce each other in a virtuous cycle of mutual support.

Segment 3: Strategies to strengthen volunteerism and the role of Governments

26. The World Bank *2000 World Development Report* corroborates the view that societal norms and networks are a key form of social capital and can be used as tools to move out of poverty. It is important, therefore, to work with and enhance these social networks by linking them to intermediary organizations, broader markets and public institutions. The report, building on the expert working group meeting and the Hilversum Seminar referred to at the outset of the present paper, considers conditions under which volunteerism may flourish. These include developing an overall, integrated national strategy for action by establishing an enabling fiscal and legislative framework, raising public awareness of the contribution of voluntary action to the general welfare, and promoting youth volunteering and private sector involvement.

27. Underlying these measures is the imperative of fully taking into account very different cultures and traditions when designing national strategies to support voluntary action.

28. Promoting voluntary action is one way in which Governments can increase the probability of success and cost-effectiveness of their national development initiatives. Unfortunately, voluntary action is all too often underrated as simply a contribution in kind. On the contrary, volunteer contributions can be critical in

maximizing the impact of physical and human capital on productivity and growth. The promotion of volunteering often involves the resurrection of dormant values that have always existed, be they expressed through tribal groups, village councils and mutual aid and self-help women's and youth associations, but which have been negatively affected by war, poverty or epidemics and, in some societies, by the decline of support systems such as the family and wider kinship networks and religious institutions. The impact of government investment in social capital can be at least as great, and possibly more sustainable, than other forms of investment.

29. One strategy in the promotion of voluntary action is the decentralization of resources and authority in order to bring service agencies closer to communities, enhance the latter's control over such services and increase public accountability in public sector programmes. Such policies open up space for parents' involvement in schools, facilitate community residents involvement in water supply, irrigation and forest management programmes, and promote more efficient income-generating opportunities for the poor. Development initiatives at a local level should systematically involve users who are willing to invest their own time — an investment that should be recognized and rewarded.

30. The organizational capacity of people, especially those living in poverty, can be enhanced through legal, fiscal and regulatory measures that remove barriers for local associational activities. The promotion of an environment supportive of local networks contributes significantly to the creation of entrepreneurial, rather than dependent, citizens. Key issues include the legal status and registration requirements of local voluntary organizations, funding mechanisms, and tenure rights over local resources. Governments may review regulations regarding qualifications for local peoples' involvement as volunteers in such areas as health and education, and revise laws pertaining to employment in the private sector to take into account the benefits of employee volunteering to the employee, company and society at large.

31. Another set of bottlenecks impeding organizational capacity are limited transport and communications infrastructures, which hinder the ability of people to organize. This is especially true of geographically dispersed populations and those living in poverty. A targeted programme of infrastructure improvements can overcome these constraints, augmenting social capital by means of an investment in physical infrastructure. The spread of new information technologies also has the potential to make major gains against this limitation.

32. Access to information is a vital element of any environment in which voluntary action can flourish. Being well informed of government policies and programmes allows people at the local level to feel more ownership of public services and to know where and how to get involved. Thus, they are more likely to complement government programmes through voluntary action. Networking information about other local initiatives and best practice is an equally crucial input, economizing on time and effort. Governments, universities and non-governmental organizations are well positioned to disseminate a new understanding of the value of synergy and partnership between the State and society.

33. Flexible feedback mechanisms of exchange and training can give new meaning to people's participation and to public programmes. By facilitating linkages among communities and between communities and the State, the Government can take the lead in building a framework of trust. Teaching government personnel the merits of voluntary action, which builds upon local traditions of solidarity, and using the media to provide information on such traditions where they have been severely diminished, would be helpful. Governments can also provide opportunities for management and technical training to people who wish to volunteer.

34. Another area for government action is the promotion of initiatives aimed at expanding the opportunities for volunteer contribution among excluded segments of the population. Given the sense of personal worth and the social utility that individuals and society gain from voluntary action, the right to volunteer should apply to all sectors of society. People with disabilities, older persons and refugees have immense amounts of skill and knowledge to contribute to their communities, and would be well served by the personal benefits of voluntary action. Voluntary action should be promoted and recognized within a holistic framework that incorporates volunteering and paid work as key ways in which citizens share their knowledge and skills with society. Again, new information technologies can open up many opportunities in this respect.

35. Governments can also play a key role in devising innovative ways of enhancing the participation of youth in civic life. The disaffection and despair felt by many young people in the industrialized and developing worlds, especially those living in poverty, threatens the very fabric of many societies. Experience shows that when youth are offered creative and meaningful opportunities to contribute to the improvement of their communities, they react very positively. Incorporating community service programmes into school curricula, provided the service opportunities are meaningful and regular, can have a real impact on the level of youth participation. Moreover, the impact is likely to have lasting results, given the fact that volunteering in one's youth is a strong predicator of volunteering later in life. Another promising strategy centres around the dissemination of new information technologies, that enable youth to communicate with one another and to discuss their values and culture, enhance their self esteem, sense of social responsibility and civic leadership.

36. Given the magnitude and diversity of voluntary action and its relative public invisibility, Governments could encourage and undertake research into the traditions of volunteering that are rooted in their national culture and their impact on contemporary society. Those results could then be disseminated through public, private and voluntary sectors, in schools and places of worship and at special periodic celebratory moments, such as the national day or International Volunteer Day, with the full involvement of the media. Such research may cover measurements of the contributions of voluntary action to society and the economy and could find its way into national development plans and national human development reports and also into reports that Governments will prepare on action taken with respect to the recommendations of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. This would help to forge a common sense of purpose between Governments and communities, between State and society, facilitating and reinforcing their interaction and cooperation as partners in development.

37. Volunteering is an important component of successful social development that can expand resources, solve problems and improve the quality of life for all. By playing a pro-active enabling role, Governments can positively affect levels of voluntary participation in national society. However, the reverse is also true. By not factoring volunteering into the design and implementation of social policy, Governments run the risk of overlooking an extraordinary national asset and unwittingly undermining the very social traditions that underpin civic engagement and bind people together in common pursuits.

38. A key goal of the International Year of Volunteers is to increase the visibility of volunteering and to identify ways in which voluntary action can be facilitated. Thus, it offers a unique opportunity to initiate discussions on the issues raised in the present paper at a national level. Equally important is the national infrastructure that is in place to implement concrete steps once agreement is reached on the course to be followed. At the beginning of the year, national International Year of Volunteers committees were formed in around 100 countries, either at the instigation of Governments or with their full involvement. While promoting and sustaining volunteering is a shared responsibility of all the sectors, Governments can seize this opportunity for action to explore, in consultation with all relevant partners, the ideas outlined in the present paper and to strengthen the special contribution that voluntary action already makes to the well-being of all the world's peoples.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

Interim report of the Secretary-General

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Annex

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I. Introduction

1. The current report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 54/121, of 17 December 1999, "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century", in which the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session.

2. The present interim report is in three parts. The first part describes progress in implementing equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities in the light of priorities for action identified in Assembly resolution 54/121. The second part reviews selected experiences in regional cooperation, in particular the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) and the Africa Decade of Disabled People (2000-2009). The third part presents a perspective framework for the fourth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 52/82, of 16 December 1997.

II. Progress in equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities

3. In resolution 54/121 the General Assembly identifies priorities for action to further equalization of opportunities and promote a more inclusive society for all. Chief among the priorities identified is accessibility in the environment and with regard to information and communications services. Health and social services, including training and rehabilitation, and employment and sustainable livelihoods are areas that also received special attention. The Assembly also calls for action related to international norms and standards, disability statistics and children with disabilities. Selected experience in implementing the resolution is discussed below.

A. Accessibility

4. The report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on implementation of the World Programme of Action (A/54/388/Add.1)[1] discusses both policy and operational aspects of "accessibility", rule 5 of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.[2] Accessibility is examined with respect to the environment and to information and communications technologies.

5. The report also describes briefly preparations by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to organize an international seminar on environmental accessibility. The seminar took place from 30 November to 3 December 1999 at United Nations House at Beirut with a high level of participation by policy makers, practitioners, academics and representatives of the non-governmental community. Seminar proceedings were enhanced by a study tour of the experience of Beirut in planning and development of non-handicapping and barrier-free environments, particularly the innovative activities by SOLIDERE, the Lebanese Company for the Development and Reconstruction of the Beirut Central District.[3] Seminar participants took note of the treatment of accessibility in rule 5 of the Standard Rules and adopted recommendations on policies and legislation related to environmental accessibility; institutional arrangements; training, applied research and evaluation; norms and standards; and information and outreach.[4] Follow up to the seminar has focussed on practical action directed at promoting public awareness and building national capacities. Among activities undertaken by the United Nations system to date is the recent Regional Conference on Accessible Tourism for People with Disabilities (Bali, 24-28 September 2000). The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized the seminar in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia and the Centre for Community-based Rehabilitation, Development and Training (Solo). In Western Asia, ESCWA is carrying out an innovative programme of outreach, training and pilot action for accessible tourism at Aley (Lebanon), which includes training for planning and design practitioners in the region. The latter two activities received co-financing support from the Development Account for the biennium 2000-2001 under project H, "Capacity building for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities".[5]

6. In the Americas region, the Association for Promotion of Development of Persons with Disabilities

(APRODDIS), in cooperation with the National Council on Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities of Peru (CONADIS) and the College of Architects of Peru, published in late 2000 a monograph, "Elimination of architectural barriers in Peru".[6] APRODDIS and the Office of the Ombudsman of Peru organized seminars and training workshops on environmental accessibility issues during 2000, assisted by co-financing grants from the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability.

7. Internet accessibility and persons with disabilities was the subject of a special presentation at the year 2000 national assembly of persons with disabilities in Mexico (Guanajuato, 25-28 May 2000), which was organized jointly by the Government of Mexico and the Mexican Federation of Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities, a non-governmental organization. Meeting delegates in Guanajuato participated in an Internet-enabled collaboration with a specialist in accessibility technologies from his office in Canada.[7] In light of the demonstrated capacities of accessible Internet technologies to empower persons with disabilities and enable them to exercise full and effective participation, the Government of Mexico, in cooperation with the Mexican Foundation for Social Integration, a non-governmental organization, plans to organize in the first half of 2001 at Mexico City a regional seminar on Internet accessibility and strategies to implement the Standard Rules.

8. At the observance in 2000 of the International Day of Disabled Persons at United Nations Headquarters, the theme was "Making information technologies work for all". The observance included a briefing and multimedia presentation on issues and trends in accessible information and telecommunication technologies (ICT) for all. The theme was selected in the light of the attention directed to the role of ICT in development of "knowledge-based economies" at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2000 and the Millennium Summit of the General Assembly.

B. Social services and sustainable livelihoods

9. The review of progress made in implementing the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session (Geneva, 26-30 June 2000), took note, inter alia, of the importance of universal access to social services, development of human resources and training in promoting employment opportunities and people-centred sustainable development.[8] There is a well-documented relationship between investments in human resources and relative levels of development,[9] and the policy guidance of the Assembly is reflected in actual practice in countries. As this pertains to social services, sustainable livelihoods and persons with disabilities, ESCWA, in accordance with its programme of work, is assisting requesting Governments to build national capacities and strengthen institutions for non-traditional employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for persons with disabilities. ESCWA, the Government of Jordan and the non-governmental Saudi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training of Arab Blind Girls (Amman) are carrying out an innovative programme of training in computer Braille. The training programme of the Centre is being assisted by co-financing grants from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND). An example of the multiplier effect of the programmes of the Saudi Centre is the recently initiated computer-training programme for Arab blind girls and women by the Bethlehem Society for Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Palestine Authority. ESCWA began in 2000 a cooperative programme with the Government of Lebanon to develop and test innovative approaches to promoting self-reliance among persons with disabilities. The Local Council for Welfare of Disabled Persons at Boujr al-Barajneh is carrying out the programme, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs. A number of community-based training workshops have been successfully carried out, and fellows have been placed in vocational training and mainstream employment opportunities.

10. As will be discussed in detail in the paragraphs below, pilot action to promote employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods of persons with disabilities has been one of the main areas receiving support from the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability. Projects have been supported in Africa, in economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, and in Western Asia. The project experience suggests that an appropriate policy framework and the participation of stakeholders and their families are important factors in the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for all.

C. International norms and standards related to persons with disabilities

11. In paragraph 3 of resolution 54/121 the General Assembly notes with appreciation the valuable work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development in monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and, in paragraph 9, urges relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

12. From a substantive point of view, international norms and standards concerning persons with disabilities encompass human rights in all spheres of life: economic, social and cultural, and civil and political.[10] Experiences noted during the period under review suggest that combining the resources of "traditional" human rights communities, which focus in the main on political and civil rights, and the "non-traditional" communities of interest, which focus on disability-sensitive rights at the international and regional levels could make significant contributions to a broad human rights framework to advance the rights of all. To provide a forum for exchanges on international norms and standards, the United Nations cooperated with the Equal Opportunities Commission of Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China), in collaboration with the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong, to organize an Interregional Seminar and Symposium on International Norms and Standards relating to Disability (13-17 December 1999). The seminar and symposium brought together scholars, practitioners and representatives of the non-governmental community and made innovative and effective use of Internet-enabled resources to review and discuss issues and trends in the development and implementation of norms and standards, issues in national capacity-building for equalization of opportunities, and issues and trends in disability policy design, evaluation and the definition of "disability".[11] As follow-up to the seminar and as a way to provide improved awareness of international norms and standards relating to disability, the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, established with the assistance of private-sector specialists a fully accessible online database on disability rights resources.[12]

13. It may be recalled that at its thirty-eighth session (8-17 February 2000), the Commission for Social Development had for its consideration a comprehensive report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability on his second mission, of 1997-2000, to promote and monitor implementation of the Standard Rules (E/CN.5/2000/3, annex). Following its consideration of the report, the Commission recommended a third mandate for the Special Rapporteur — to December 2002 — which was adopted subsequently by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2000/10 of 27 July 2000. In paragraph 7 of that resolution, the Council requested the Special Rapporteur to present his views on further developing his proposals on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities,[13] on forms for complementing and developing the Standard Rules, and on how to enhance the involvement of the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental regional organizations regarding the implementation of the Standard Rules. At its fifty-sixth session (20 March-28 April 2000), the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 2000/51, in which it invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Disability, to examine measures to strengthen the protection and monitoring of the human rights of persons with disabilities and to solicit input and proposals from interested parties, including the panel of experts that consult with the Special Rapporteur

14. In the light of the guidance provided by competent intergovernmental bodies and in accordance with chapter IV, "Monitoring mechanism", of the Standard Rules, the Special Rapporteur formulated a multi-year programme of work, which was circulated by the United Nations Secretariat to member States.[14] The work programme is comprehensive and includes consultations with Governments, on request, as well as the non-governmental community, participation in seminars and symposia, and organization of technical exchanges. During 2000 the work of the Special Rapporteur included missions, on request, to several countries (Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Hungary, Russian Federation and Uganda) and participation at two major conferences — Nineteenth World Congress of Rehabilitation International (Rio de Janeiro, 25-29 August 2000), and Sixth Congress on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities (Edmonton, Alberta (Canada), 22-24 October 2000). A number of diverse issues have come up in the countries visited by the

Special Rapporteur, but it is possible to identify certain key themes arising in the consultations. First, there are recent and very positive developments in human rights and persons with disabilities. Greater attention is being directed to incorporating disability-sensitive concerns effectively into general development policies and programmes. There also is increased awareness and concern with means to move from large institutional facilities for disabled persons, where millions of disabled children and adults spend their lives today, to community-based approaches to counselling, care and social integration.

15. The Special Rapporteur organized an international seminar on human rights and disability from 4-10 November 2000 at Stockholm. The seminar was attended by 27 international experts, who represented the principal areas of disability and human rights concerns. The purpose of the seminar was to elaborate guidelines for identifying and reporting human rights violations and abuse against persons with disabilities and means to present those materials to competent intergovernmental and expert bodies.

16. During 2001 the Special Rapporteur will continue to undertake missions, on request, to a number of countries, including China and two in Africa. He will also initiate work related to the development of a text of the Standard Rules in accordance with the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution E/2000/10 and with reference to the substantive observations in the report on his second mission (E/CN.5/2000/3, annex). He will participate in follow-up activities outlined by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 2000/51 and will serve as chairman of a working group on rights for disabled children, which on an informal basis assists and supports the work of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child relating to its monitoring of the situation of disabled children.

D. Global statistics and indicators on disability

17. In paragraph 10 of resolution 54/121, the General Assembly urged Governments to cooperate with the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability. During the period under review the work of the Division on disability statistics focused on two broad areas: compilation and dissemination of data, and development of methods for data collection and compilation. The objectives are to improve the use of available disability data by making them more accessible to a wide set of users and to produce methodological guidelines for use by countries to improve the collection and dissemination of disability data.

18. With regard to work on the compilation and dissemination of data, a disability statistics home page on the World Wide Web will shortly be finalized and available for public access. It is envisaged that the home page will include disability prevalence rates as well as corresponding textual information on methods used in the data collection. The underlying United Nations Disability Statistics Database (DISTAT), version 2, will be released in 2001. DISTAT-2 covers 179 studies from 100 countries in all regions of the world and contains information on disability status; persons with disability, by type of disability; and social and economic characteristics of the population with and without disability. Concerning work on methodological guidelines, *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* is available in a pre-publication format, on request, from the Statistics Division.[15] The guidelines are aimed mainly at national statisticians and address issues of planning, collecting, processing, evaluating, tabulating and disseminating statistics on persons with disabilities in both surveys and censuses.

19. The Statistics Division is participating in continuing tests of the International Classification of Impairments, Disability and Handicap-2 (ICIDH Beta-2 draft).[16] This activity involves the back-coding of disability survey data for Canada, France, the Netherlands, South Africa and the United States, using the recommended tabulations in *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (revision 1).[17]

20. The Statistics Division is preparing for an International conference on disability statistics which is scheduled to take place in New York in June 2001. The conference will bring together users and producers of disability data from countries and provide a forum for discussing issues related to the measurement of disability. The conference will direct special attention to reviewing and assessing the current status of work on disability statistical methods at national and international levels, with a focus on questionnaire

design; formulating an agenda for further work and research on measurement of disability; and building networks among institutions and experts, including producers and users of disability statistics, to promote increased exchanges of knowledge and experience on conceptual and methodological developments.

E. Children with disabilities

21. In paragraph 11 of resolution 54/121, the General Assembly also urges Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to direct special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families. The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[18] addresses the situation of children with disabilities in both its "prevention" and its "equalization of opportunities" objectives; and general guidance is provided in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex) directs attention to the right of children with disabilities to care, access to education and training, health care and rehabilitation services, and preparation for employment and recreation opportunities.

22. From a development perspective, in the absence of an appropriate policy framework and programme interventions, including support services, counselling and training, children and young adults with disabilities will likely become dependent disabled adults, unable to participate on the basis of equality in social life and development.

23. During 1999 the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (resolution 1068 (XXIX-0/99) of 7 June 1999).[19] The "Convention" provides general policy guidance on prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, and for promotion of full and effective integration of persons with disabilities in social life and development.

24. In October 2000 the Ministry of Youth, Women, Children and the Family of Panama, in cooperation with the Panamanian Institute of Special Education (IPHE), organized a seminar on children with disabilities: issues and trends in development policies and programmes in the Americas region (Panama City, 16-20 October 2000).[20] The seminar aimed to provide a forum for exchanges of knowledge and experience on issues and trends in policies and strategies concerning the situation of children with disabilities in the Americas region, innovative programme and project initiatives related to children with disabilities, and issues in data collection and statistics related to children with disabilities. Seminar participants included policy makers, programme managers, academics and representatives of the non-governmental community concerned with the situation of children with disabilities and their families.

25. On the basis of an intensive programme of substantive sessions and group discussions, seminar participants formulated the Declaration of Panama, on disability as an issue of human rights,[21] which provides a framework for policy options, strategies and practical action to promote equalization of opportunities and a society for all.

26. The Tenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Panama City, 17-18 November 2000) took note of the Declaration of Panama as one of the activities organized by the Ibero-American community that had contributed to the enrichment and strengthening of the Summit deliberations.[22]

F. Activities of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability

1. Project cycle activities: September 1999 to October 2000

27. The review for the period of 1 September 1999 to 31 October 2000 describes project cycle activities of the Fund undertaken since the earlier review in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (A/54/351/Add.1).

28. During the period, the Fund provided $763,901 in grants to 26 disability-related projects. As table 1 indicates, nearly 90 per cent of the projects supported (23/26) were carried out at the national or regional level in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, central and eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, or Western Asia. Interregional activities accounted for 11.5 per cent of the projects supported and received 18 per cent of the grants disbursed, which reflects their generally larger scale and the complexity of issues addressed.

Table 1
Projects supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, by region, grant amount, and total budget, September 1999 to October 2000

Region	*Projects supported*	*Total budget (US$)*	*Grants (US$)*
Africa	9	456 210	175 950
Asia and the Pacific	2	97 782	45 200
Central and eastern Europe	3	237 790	56 551
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	590 664	244 200
Western Asia	3	733 500	107 000
Interregional	3	482 921	135 000
Total	**26**	**2 598 867**	**763 901**

29. Table 1 indicates that Africa accounts for more than one in three of the projects supported (35 per cent) and nearly one fourth (23 per cent) of grants disbursed, which is owing to a higher percentage of small-scale national-level proposals. Nearly one in four of the projects supported (23 per cent) were in the Americas region, while Western Asia and central and eastern Europe each accounted for 12 per cent; Asia and the Pacific account for 8 per cent.

30. The projects supported were selected from a pool of over 200 proposals received from governmental bodies and organizations and the non-governmental community (with appropriate governmental endorsement). Decisions to recommend projects for support are made by interdisciplinary review committees on substantive, financial and administrative grounds. Grant recommendations respond to General Assembly guidance on assistance to the least developed, the heavily indebted and the low-income countries, especially in Africa, and to countries in transition.

31. Guidelines for preparing proposals for consideration by the Fund are published on the Internet at http://www.un.org/esa/socdevt/spdproj.htm.

Table 2
Projects supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, by project agent and approved grant, 1 September 1999 to 31 October 2000

Project agent	*Projects supported*	*Grants (US$)*
Governmental body or organization	3	139 500
Non-governmental organization	23	624 401
Total	**26**	**763 901**

32. Table 2 indicates that the decided majority of the Fund-supported projects — nearly 90 per cent — were implemented by the non-governmental community, (with appropriate endorsement and the cooperation of concerned governmental bodies or organizations). As presented in the annex, non-governmental organizations continue to make important and valued contributions to equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities by means of catalytic and innovative projects in leadership training, skill development and technology transfer.

2. Selected project experience

33. During the period under review, the Fund focused on supporting activities that responded to priorities for action to promote equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities identified in General Assembly resolutions 52/82 and 54/121 — namely, accessibility, social services and social safety nets, and employment and sustainable livelihoods. In support of the achievement of these priorities, projects supported can be broadly defined as having capacity-building and institutional development as their principal functions. Several projects have a significant formal training element, while others focus on technical exchanges of skills and knowledge, which also promote establishment and development of networks of excellence for disability action. Some projects involve pilot action for equalization of opportunities while others represent pilot action related to de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities.

(a) Accessibility

34. As discussed in rule 5, "Accessibility", of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities

for Persons with Disability,[2] projects supported focused on both environmental accessibility and accessible information and communication technologies (ICT). Several projects reflect the growing awareness of universal design concepts and principles and seek to promote accessibility for all as both normative concern and technical design standard.

35. *Internet accessibility*. The role of information and communication technologies (ICT) and development were considered by both the high-level Segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2000 and the Millennium Summit. Building on both the substantive exchanges and policy guidance emanating from these important meetings, the Fund is supporting an initiative of the Government of Mexico, in cooperation with the non-governmental community, to organize in Mexico City in March 2001 a regional Americas seminar on Internet accessibility. The seminar will provide a forum for exchanges on Internet issues and trends in the Americas and is expected to draft a regional framework to promote accessible ICT for all.

36. With regard to direct training for accessible ICT, the Fund assisted the Saudi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training of Arab Blind Girls (Amman) to develop and test innovative programs for training in appropriate computer skills and Internet accessibility. The Centre also received support from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), in cooperation with ESCWA.

37. *Environmental accessibility*. Fund support for environmental accessibility has included pilot projects concerned with technical exchanges on barrier-free design and the training of national personnel to design, manufacture and repair appropriate mobility devices.

38. Personal choice in mobility options is an essential precondition for full and effective participation in social life and development. Technical cooperation in this area has a certain urgency since the data suggest that an estimated 20 million wheelchairs will be required by countries by the year 2020. International cooperation and charitable organizations have met less than 1 per cent of the projected need, to date. A Fund-assisted project in Ecuador resulted in new and improved capacities to produce, maintain and repair wheelchairs locally; prior to the Fund-assisted project, wheelchairs were imported or provided by charitable organizations. In Kampala, Uganda the Fund is supporting development of a wheelchair facility that is staffed by women with disabilities. The project provides technical training in wheelchair manufacturing and repair, in cooperation with Whirlwind Women International (a non-governmental organization), develops marketing skills for appropriate mobility devices, and produces wheelchairs appropriate to local conditions.

39. Fund-assisted projects concerned with accessible shelter and urban infrastructure have focused in particular on follow-up to recommendations adopted at the International Seminar on Environmental Accessibility (Beirut, 30 November to 3 December 1999), organized by the ESCWA.[23] At the request of the Southern African Federal Council on Disability (SAFCD), the Fund co-financed the International Workshop on Environmental Accessibility (Providence, RI, United States), 13-19 June 2000),[24] organized in conjunction with the International Conference on Universal Design. The Workshop considered selected experience in promoting accessible environments in countries, identified priorities for technical cooperation to promote awareness and support for accessible environments and provided opportunities to establish and develop networks of excellence for environmental accessibility. The Workshop also represented a tangible initiative in support of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2000-2009)[25]. In Peru, fund-assistance to the non-governmental organization, Asociación por Desarrollo de la Persona con Discapacidad resulted in publication on the Internet in a fully accessible format of a "guide" for environmental accessibility, based upon national laws and technical standards in Peru.[26] The Fund also assisted efforts of the Office of the Ombudsman of Peru to organize, in cooperation with the National College of Architecture, a national seminar on accessibility (Lima, 22 June 2000).

(b) Social services and social safety nets

40. "Social services for all" is one of the priority themes of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.[27] In the context of a broad human rights framework, achieving social services for all assumes special importance: social services are essential investments in the development of human potential, can further social inclusion, and promote full and effective participation on the basis of equality. People

with disabilities may risk denial of the exercise of their social, cultural and economic rights and of their civil and political rights if they are not able to participate in decisions on their basic social service needs; if they lack the means to obtain those services; or if they are not consulted on ways in which the services are provided.

41. An important issue addressed in Fund-assisted projects during the period under review has been pilot action to promote de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities. Two initiatives of the non-governmental community in central Europe focused on de-institutionalization of persons with mental disabilities in countries in transition, which were carried out in cooperation with the Central European Mental Disability Advocacy Project of the Open Society Institute (a non-governmental organization). A project in Croatia, implemented by the Association for the Promotion of Inclusion, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, is carrying out pilot training for independent living at a day-care centre in Zagreb and by means of community outreach in Bjelovar and Osnia among mentally disabled persons. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Association for Social Inclusion of Persons with Mental Retardation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Policy and Refugees, is carrying out pilot training in independent living skills among adults with severe mental disabilities in Tuzla and pilot programmes in Brcko and Gradcac to integrate children with moderate to severe mental disabilities into public schools.

(c) Employment and sustainable livelihoods

42. Employment promotion is another priority theme identified in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. In cooperation with ESCWA, the Fund is supporting innovative programmes to promote non-traditional employment opportunities among persons with disabilities in the region. For instance, assistance is being provided to the Saudi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training of Arab Blind Girls to provide training in computer skills for blind women and girls from the Western Asia region. A follow-up national project organized by the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Palestine National Authority, is training blind girls in Braille computer skills. ESCWA is assisting the local Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon, to carry out a series of pilot efforts in community-based employment promotion, initially in the Burj El-Barajneh district of Beirut. The project has organized a well-received workshop on entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities and has placed fellows in a range of vocational training activities. An innovative project in employment placement in countries in transition is being carried out in Hungary by the Salva Vita Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs and the Central Labour Office. The Salva Vita Foundation initiative is a response to a 1998 law on the rights of persons with disabilities in Hungary, including access to employment opportunities. The model programme of Salva Vita Foundation prepares both programme participants, their families and the workplace for gainful work. Each participant joins a job orientation session and trial work period, and permanent improvement in work-related skills is provided by means of job coaching of the employee with the disability as well as support to colleagues who work directly with the disabled person. This initiative has resulted in increased public awareness of the issue and enhanced self-reliance among persons with disabilities.

3. Fund grants as venture catalysts in promoting a "society for all"

43. In addition to support provided for pilot action of a catalytic and innovative nature, in line with the priorities identified by the General Assembly to further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, the Fund also disbursed several "venture catalyst" grants that responded to new areas of concern identified by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to promote a "society for all".

44. The Fund provided three grants to support activities related to implementation of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2000-2009), which included support for both an interregional and a subregional workshop on environmental accessibility and universal design, and a regional expert meeting on leadership development. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 2000/10 of 27 July 2000, also encouraged international support for the Decade.

45. In resolution 54/121, paragraph 11, the General Assembly urged Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to

the situation of children with disabilities and their families. As discussed above (see para. 23), at the request of the Government of Panama, the Fund provided support for the regional seminar on children with disabilities. The seminar provided a forum for exchanges on policy issues and trends in the Americas region concerning children with disabilities from the development perspective.

46. The Fund is supporting innovative efforts of the Fundación Amor y Energía (AM-EN) to train trainers, initially in Ecuador, in rehabilitation and social integration of children and young adults with disabilities. In Nepal the Fund is supporting pilot action by the Nepal Disabled Women Society to improve outreach and counselling of children with disabilities. Fund-supported initiatives to promote the social integration of children and youth with disabilities by training in information and communications technologies in Jordan and by the Palestine Authority, discussed above, are also relevant in this regard.

47. An emerging area of concern related to the situation of children and young adults with disabilities and their families is de-institutionalization. This is particularly so in countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Fund-assisted pilot efforts of the non-governmental community, in cooperation with the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary, to provide community-based outreach and training for social integration and independent living among young adults and children with disabilities suggest that the process of moving from institutional approaches to care and council provided by community-based services is complex. Further exchanges of knowledge and experience would be advantageous for purposes of both policy design and programme planning and evaluation.

48. In resolution 54/121, paragraph 2, the General Assembly welcomed the initiatives of Governments to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and to further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities. To that end, the Fund has provided support for Governments as well as the non-governmental community, in Mexico, Peru and in the Eastern Africa subregion, to promote awareness, to publish technical monographs and to build national capacities for accessibility both in the physical environment and with regard to information and communication technologies (ICT), the two aspects of accessibility discussed in rule 5 of the Standard Rules. Such support has been instrumental in building public awareness and support for a broad human rights approach to development. However, the experiences to date suggest that the complex process of ensuring sustainable implementation of disability-sensitive policies and programmes is only just beginning. Follow-up action is essential — particularly an observed need to support disability-sensitive policy design and evaluation and to convert disability norms, standards and legislation into practical action at national and local levels. At regional and interregional levels, technical exchanges provide opportunities for Governments to review and discuss strategies and measures to empower persons with disabilities so that they can participate on the basis of equality in decisions that concern their livelihoods and well-being, the situations of their families and the communities in which they live.

49. By resolution 52/17 of 20 November 1997 the General Assembly proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers,[28] in which voluntarism by, for and with persons with disabilities is an area to be accorded special attention. In the light of the many contributions that persons with disabilities make to the societies in which they live, proposals for voluntary action, with appropriate governmental endorsement, which will further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, will be considered by the Fund.

G. Development Account for the biennium 2000-2001

50. The Development Account has its origin in proposals submitted by the Secretary-General for renewal and reform of the United Nations.[29] The "development dividend" resulting from savings in the regular budget from proposed reductions in administration and other overhead costs would be reallocated to social and economic activities with emphasis on national capacity building. By resolutions 54/249 and 54/250, of 23 December 1999, the General Assembly approved an appropriation of $13,065,000, under section 33 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, Development Account, to fund 16 projects in the economic and social sectors proposed by the Secretary-General in accordance with guidelines provided by the Assembly. One of the 16 approved

projects — Project H — concerns capacity-building and institutional development for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

51. The vision for Project H, based upon the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, is promoting social progress and better standards of life in greater freedom for all. The project focuses on persons with disabilities as both development agents and beneficiaries, since they often are unable to pursue full and effective participation owing to social, cultural and environmental barriers. Participation as a basic right for all has been reaffirmed at major United Nations conferences and summits.

52. The objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities and institutional capabilities of developing countries to further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities for full and effective participation in social life and development.

53. The project has three priority areas for action: (a) accessibility; (b) social services and safety nets; and (c) employment and sustainable livelihoods. The project also examines the broad framework of international norms and standards relating to disability and implications for national capacity building.

54. During 2000 special effort was directed to the identification of partners in countries — governmental as well as non-governmental — to serve as agents in the implementation of the project. Project implementation began in earnest in the third quarter of 2000 with the co-financing of technical exchanges related to the priority theme of environmental accessibility, organized by ESCAP and ESCWA.

55. With co-financing of Project H, ESCAP organized a regional training workshop on promotion of accessible tourism (Denpasar, Bali, 24-28 September 2000), in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia and the Community-based Rehabilitation Centre (Solo, Indonesia), a non-governmental organization. The workshop was organized parallel to the Asia-Pacific Conference on Tourism for People with Disabilities (Denpasar, Bali, 24-27 September 2000), with a view to providing a forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences in barrier-free tourism and identifying multisectoral policies and strategies to promote it. Workshop participants adopted the Bali Declaration on Barrier-free Tourism for People with Disabilities, which presents a framework for further action.[30] The results of the workshop were considered by the ESCAP Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development at its third session (Bangkok, 15-17 November 2000) and will contribute to the full participation and equality goals of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002).

56. In Western Asia, ESCWA, with the co-financing assistance of Project H, is carrying out, in cooperation with the Government of Lebanon (Ministry of Social Affairs), the National Council on Disability and the Aley metropolitan government, an innovative programme of applied research, subregional training, and pilot action related to building national capacities for accessible cultural sites and barrier-free tourism. During 2000-2001 ESCWA will take pilot action, using community-based approaches, to test, evaluate and develop plans and designs for selected areas of cultural and tourism significance in the Aley municipality. The results of pilot action on planning and design for environmental accessibility will be shared by means of a subregional training workshop with interested neighbouring countries and authorities where there is great interest but limited national capacities to plan, design and develop accessible and non-handicapping environments. The results will be published as technical monographs which are expected to provide guidance on concepts and approaches to planning and design of barrier-free and non-handicapping environments appropriate to conditions in Western Asia.

III. Regional cooperation for equalization of opportunities

A. African Decade of Disabled People (2000-2009)

57. In resolution E/2000/10, the Economic and Social Council encouraged international support for the African Decade of Disabled People to promote equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and to promote and protect human rights.

58. The member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) decided at the OAU summit (Algiers, 12-14 July 1999) to proclaim an African Decade of Disabled People (2000-2009). The African

Decade represents an innovative partnership between Governments and the non-governmental community to put disability on the development agenda of Africa. The African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) and the Pan African Federation of the Disabled (PAFOD), non-governmental organizations, are active in Decade activities, in close consultation with interested Governments. Subregional affiliates of PAFOD in all parts of Africa and other interested organizations of persons with disabilities are also engaged in Decade activities.

59. Three Decade-related substantive activities have been supported to date by grants from the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability. Two have been successfully implemented:

(a) International Workshop on Environmental Accessibility and Universal Design in Developing Countries, organized by the Southern Africa Federal Council on Disability, in collaboration with the Universal Design Center (Boston, MA) and in conjunction with the International Conference on Designing for the 21st Century (Providence, RI, United States, 14-18 June 2000);[31]

(b) Eastern Africa Regional Workshop on Application of Universal Design Concepts and Principles and Information Technologies to the Africa Decade of Disabled Persons (Nairobi, 6-10 November 2000), organized by the Eastern Africa Federation of the Disabled (EAFOD), in cooperation with the Government of Kenya (Department of Social Services) and United Disabled Persons of Kenya. The third activity is the Consultative Meeting on Leadership Training in Support of the Africa Decade of Disabled Persons (Nairobi, fourth quarter, 2000), organized by the Pan African Federation of the Disabled (PAFOD), in cooperation with the Government of Kenya (Department of Social Services) and United Disabled Persons of Kenya. Significantly, the first Decade-related activity focused on an interregional exchange of knowledge and experience in the planning and development of accessible environments, which leveraged the considerable experience of African specialists in both the technical and community-participation aspects of promoting environmental accessibility for all. An immediate result of the International Workshop was the second project, the Eastern Africa workshop. A Pan-Africa leadership development meeting was recently rescheduled for technical reasons. The results of the meeting will be presented in the relevant report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (2001).

B. Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002)

60. By resolution 48/3 member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with the goal of full participation and equality of persons with disabilities.[32]

61. The secretariat of ESCAP organized the regional forum, Meeting the Targets for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the ESCAP Region (Bangkok, 15-19 November 1999), which brought together senior officials responsible for disability-related issues, members of the United Nations system, and representatives of the non-governmental community to review the status of fulfilment of the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and the Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.[33] Forum participants identified the following critical issues and areas related to furthering the goals and objectives of the Decade: national coordination, legislation, information, public awareness, accessibility and communication, education, training and employment, prevention of causes of disability and rehabilitation (with emphasis on community-based rehabilitation; health and social development), prevention of causes of disability, rehabilitation services, assistive devices, self-help organizations and regional cooperation. Based on that review, forum participants formulated revisions to the 73 targets for the Decade, which increased to 107 targets, to provide further impetus to the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities for the balance of the Decade.

62. During the period under review ESCAP, in cooperation with interested member States and the non-governmental community, organized a number of technical exchanges, training workshops and seminars that directed special attention to education and technology and persons with disabilities and to the Standard Rules, particularly as they relate to accessibility, poverty alleviation and disability statistics.[34] In 1999 ESCAP organized three technical

meetings on the question of education and children with disabilities:

(a) Seminar on Art Education and Children with Disabilities (Bangkok, 23-27 August 1999);

(b) Working Group Meeting on Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities (Bangkok, 18 October 1999);

(c) Regional Forum on Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities (Bangkok, 15-19 November 1999).

The following technical meetings on accessibility focused on training related to barrier-free design and were organized at both regional and subregional levels:

(a) Regional Training of Trainers Course on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for People with Disabilities (Bangkok, 1-14 March 2000);

(b) Consultative Meeting to Review Progress of Field Work in Training of Disabled Persons as Trainers for Non-handicapping Environments (Pattaya, 28 July-5 August 2000);

(c) Regional Conference and Training Workshop on Accessible Tourism for People with Disabilities (Bali, 24-28 September 2000);

(d) Training Seminar on Accessible Public Transport (Shenzhen, 20-24 November 2000);

(e) Training of Disabled Persons as Trainers for Non-handicapping Environments: Final Phase Training and Evaluation (Bangkok, 10-16 December 2000).

63. Two sets of technical exchanges organized by ESCAP reflect multisectoral approaches to disability action to further implement the Standard Rules. The Field Study-cum-regional Seminar on Poverty Alleviation Among Rural Persons with Disabilities (Hyderabad, India, 6-15 December 1999) was organized jointly by ESCAP and the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. It was the first of its kind to focus regional attention on rural poverty and disability issues. While most disabled persons in the ESCAP region live in rural areas, they remain, to a large extent, excluded from rural poverty-alleviation policies and programmes. Seminar participants formulated recommendations on the promotion of participation of disabled persons in rural poverty alleviation programmes and addressed, inter alia, financial allocation of a specific proportion of the development budgets of all governmental departments, including those for rural development and poverty alleviation, for poverty alleviation among rural disabled persons. Recommendations also addressed the need to facilitate formation of self-help groups of rural disabled persons. Local governmental agencies and self-help groups of the rural poor were encouraged to extend their support through awareness-raising and skills enhancement. The Regional Training Workshop on Disability Statistics (New Delhi, 7-11 February 2000) was the first regional workshop involving both producers and users of disability statistics for purposes of policy and programme purposes. Workshop participants included policy makers, statisticians from national statistical organizations and related agencies as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations concerned with advocating the inclusion of disability concerns to the work of statistical services. The Workshop recommended the designation of a focal agency in each country to assume responsibility for disability data collection, analysis and dissemination, in close consultation and coordination with government ministries and agencies, institutions and disability organizations; and the establishment of forums at national and subnational levels for continuous dialogue between producers and users of disability statistics, to enhance dialogue and understanding on disability-related data and its effective use. The Workshop was organized jointly by ESCAP, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Government of India and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

64. The secretariat of ESCAP organized a major review of progress in implementing the targets of the Decade, Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (Bangkok, 11-15 December 2000). Meeting participants adopted the Bangkok Millennium Declaration on the Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. Further details on the outcome of the review meeting will be discussed in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World

Programme of Action, which will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

IV. Perspective framework for the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

65. In paragraph 7 of resolution 52/82 the General Assembly decided that the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action, in 2002, shall consider the issues mentioned in paragraph 4 of the resolution, viz. "(a) accessibility, (b) social services and social safety nets, and (c) employment and sustainable livelihoods".

66. The fourth review and appraisal will mark the twentieth year of international cooperation — one full generation — to further implement the goals and objectives of the World Programme. It also takes place in the tenth year following the observance of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

67. When assessing progress and obstacles in implementation of the goals and objectives of the World Programme in the year 2002, a critical question is: to what extent are structures in place to implement the World Programme in the context of development? To the extent that such structures are not in place, the question becomes: how are these structures to be established? Critical aspects of such structures include:

(a) Specific policies and programmes designed to facilitate equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

(b) Inclusion of the disability perspective in policies and programmes designed to foster social and economic development;

(c) Specific goals and objectives for such disability-sensitive policies and programmes;

(d) Establishment of verifiable indicators of progress in achieving these goals and objectives;

(e) Establishment and development of systems and procedures for periodic monitoring and evaluation.

68. Experience in implementing the World Programme, to date, suggests that certain critical aspects should be examined:

(a) Target areas for participation of persons with disabilities, as mentioned in the Standard Rules for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, including education and employment;

(b) Situation of women and specific population groups, such as children, persons in poverty and persons with psychiatric and developmental disabilities;

(c) Different levels of governmental intervention, such as intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, national Governments and the activities of non-governmental organizations;

(d) Specific programmatic interventions, such as community-based rehabilitation (CBR), environmental accessibility, independent living, including measures to promote and support personal independence, social integration, choice in use of time, economic self-sufficiency and transition in mental functions.

69. On the basis of the data currently available, it is likely that the fourth review and appraisal will highlight a number of important developments in the disability field, which could include:

(a) Progress in implementing priorities for action to promote equalization of opportunities — accessibility, social services and social safety nets, and employment and sustainable livelihoods — identified in General Assembly resolution 52/82;

(b) Progress in implementing state-of-the-art technology to enhance the access of people with disabilities to economic and social development;

(c) Lessons in implementing the Asian and Pacific Decade for Disabled Persons (1993-2002) and initiating the African Decade for Disabled Persons (2000-2009);

(d) Progress in implementing the proposed resolution of the World Heath Assembly on a new International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH), which is scheduled for May 2001;

(e) Greater harmonization of monitoring efforts, as reflected in recommendations of the Statistical Commission for the year 2000 round of

world population and housing censuses[35] and the International Conference on Disability Data, which is scheduled to be held in New York, 4-6 June 2001;

(f) Ongoing activities of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development and efforts related to developing further international norms and standards relating to disability.

70. International cooperation to further implement the World Programme will be reviewed and assessed in the fourth review and appraisal not in isolation but in the context of the demographic, economic, social and technological changes that have occurred since the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, in 1992. They include:

(a) Emergence of a global knowledge-based economy and expansion of Internet-enabled information and communications technologies (ICT), although this is occurring at significantly different rates in different countries;

(b) Adoption by many countries, particularly by countries with economies in transition, of market approaches;

(c) Growing recognition that health and disability are distinct issues;

(d) Increased incidence of formulation and adoption by countries of disability-sensitive policies;

(e) Ongoing challenge of HIV/AIDS and other pandemics;

(f) Increasing awareness and concern over the natural environment, environmental hazards and the impact on well-being and livelihoods;

(g) Growing awareness of the importance of transparency and accountability of operations and results in government;

(h) Global ageing of populations and extended active life spans;

(i) Increased incidence of including questions on disability in the year-2000 round of population and housing censuses, either for a first or second time, which will allow for trend analyses of data.

71. A continuing theme of inquiry from the third review and appraisal[36] will be the monitoring of two key distinctions of progress in equalization of opportunities: assessment of progress in implementing disability-specific policies, and progress in incorporating the disability perspective into mainstream development policies.

72. The fourth review and appraisal also will consider disability issues with reference to women and to specific social groups, such as persons living in poverty, older persons and children. The review will consider populations comprising what some analysts have termed the "new universe of disability",[37] such as persons with mental health issues, with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, and those with active, acute conditions.

73. Particular attention will be paid to the area of mental health, since mental health issues are increasingly being considered as a component of disability policy. Discrimination against persons with mental health conditions will be reviewed and assessed so that progress towards incorporating mental health issues into norms, standards and policies can be documented.

74. Diseases such as HIV/AIDS have had a particular tie with disability. On one hand, fighting acute diseases has tapped resources that might be available for implementing policy on disability. On the other hand, the many people surviving with AIDS and other acute diseases often need services required by people with "traditional" disabilities. Issues and trends with regard to the implementation of disability policies for persons with acute conditions will be examined.

75. The presence of persons with acute conditions among persons with disabilities highlights another critical issue — the connection between disability and health. Traditionally, disability advocates have sought to decouple disability and health issues, asking that society reject the concept of people with disabilities as "sick". However, a growing body of evidence suggests that persons with disabilities are at greater risk of acquiring what have been termed "secondary conditions". Thus, the prevention of secondary conditions for persons with disabilities is becoming an important goal of public policy. Thus, review and assessment of progress in this area assumes special importance.

76. It is envisaged that different levels of analysis will be considered in the report. Hence, progress will be assessed at the level of the United Nations system, with reference to regional intergovernmental organizations and to selected experiences of countries

and the non-governmental community. The review and analysis will concern not only the implementation of disability policies by those bodies and organizations but also progress within them.

Notes

[1] The report is available on the Internet at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disa54e6.htm.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex, or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm.

[3] SOLIDERE, *Accessibility for the disabled; a design manual for a barrier-free environment* (Beirut, 1998), or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/designm.

[4] Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, "International Seminar on Environmental Accessibility" (E/ESCWA/HS/2000/1). The report is available on the Internet at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disisea.htm.

[5] Information on the Development Account is available on the Internet at http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/.

[6] APRODDIS, "*Erradicando las Barreras Arquitectónicas en el Perú: Introducción al Diseño de Lugares Accesibles*" (Lima, 2000), http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/guiadd.

[7] Reports on Internet-based distance collaboration, in English and Spanish, are available at http://www.worldenable.net/participation/guanajuato.htm.

[8] "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/S-24/8/Rev.1), para. 14. See also "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" (A/55/344).

[9] See, for instance, R. E. Lucas, "Making a miracle", *Econometrica*, vol. 61 (1993), pp. 251-272; Saurar Dev Bhatta and José Lobo, "Human capital and per capita product", *Papers in Regional Science*, vol. 79 (2000), pp. 393-411.

[10] "Overview of international legal frameworks for disability legislation", or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disovlf.htm.

[11] The Internet-based resources page for the seminar and symposium is located at http://www.worldenable.net/hongkong99/default.htm.

[12] See the United Nations Internet site, at http://esa.un.org/socdev/enable/search.htm.

[13] See E/CN.5/2000/3, annex, paras. 156-159.

[14] DESA/00/386, of 6 November 2000.

[15] The pre-publication text is available from Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, 2 United Nations Plaza, Attn. M. Mbogoni (DC2-1574), New York, NY 10017, USA.

[16] The Internet-based resources page for ICIDH-2 is located at http://www.who.int/icidh. The "pre-final" version of ICIDH-2 (October 2000) is available only in the Adobe ® Portable Document Format (PDF) at http://www.who.int/icidh/prefinal.pdf. Since documents distributed in PDF are graphical images and require a special reader, users of assistive devices and those who have limited computer resources and/or telecommunications capacities may encounter difficulties in accessing the document. Interested parties can send PDF files to Adobe Systems ® for conversion into a simple hypertext markup language file (HTML) or a text file (ASCII) that can be used by screen reader programs or Braille interface devices. This online service is available at http://access.adobe.com.

[17] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8.

[18] See A/37/351/Add.1and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV), or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/diswpa00.htm.

[19] The original text of the Convention is available at http://www.oas.org/esp/aprobada1068.htm; an English version is available at the Internet site of the Organization of American States.

[20] See http://www.worldenable.net/children/Default.htm.

[21] See http://www.worldenable.net/children/declaracion.htm.

[22] *Declaración de Panamá: "Unidos por la Niñez y la Adolescencia, Base de la Justicia y la Equidad en el Nuevo Milenio"* (para. 36). See http://www.xcumbre-mire.gob.pa/reuniones-cumbre.html.

[23] See "Report of the International Seminar on Environmental Accessibility, Beirut, 30 November-3 December 1999" (E/ESCWA/HS/2000/1), or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disisea.htm.

[24] http://www.worldenable.net/ud21/default.htm

[25] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/10, of 27 July 2000, para. 14.

[26] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/guiadd/.

[27] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/wssd/agreements/index.htm.

[28] See http://www.iyv2001.org.

[29] "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950).

[30] "Promotion of barrier-free tourism for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region"

(E/ESCAP/CTCTID (3)/7/Add.1), or http:// www.unescap.org/tctd/water/committee/committee5f.htm.

[31] http://www.worldenable.net/ud21/default.htm.

[32] For background, see http://www.unescap.org/decade.backgr.htm.

[33] See http://www.unescap.org/decade/agenda.htm.

[34] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 1* (E/1998/98), resolution 1998/4 of 20 July 1998, "Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century".

[35] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 4* (E/1997/24-E/CN.4/1997/29) para. 29; and *Principles and Recommendations for the Population and Housing Censuses* (ST/ESA//STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.1) paras. 2.266-2.285.

[36] "Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons" (A/52/351), or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disrawp0.htm.

[37] Katherine D. Seelman, *Change and challenge; the integration of the new paradigm of disability into research and practice*, "Vision for the 21st century: population, health care, technology and employment"; paper presented to "National council on rehabilitation education conference (Vancouver, WA (USA), 8 March 1998)", or http://www.ncddr/org/new/speeches/ncre/ncre4.html.

Annex

Projects supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, 1 September 1999 to 31 October 2000, by region

A. Africa

1. Association être comme les autres (ECLA), in cooperation with the Ministère de l'Action sociale et de la famille: Centre for production and training in traditional crafts, Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso).

2. Groupement des personnes handicapées producteurs de Ouagadougou (GPHO), in cooperation with the Ministère de l'Action sociale et de la famille: Assistance to improve training in income generation and social action among persons with disabilities in the Department of Toécé (Burkina Faso).

3. Namibian National Association of the Deaf, in cooperation with the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement, and Rehabilitation: Support for sign-language workshops, leadership training workshop for youth, and production of local sign language dictionary (Windhoek, 11 July-20 November 2000) (Namibia).

4. Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Rehabilitation Fund: Development and testing of improved models of rehabilitation medical services to meet the needs of amputees (Uganda).

5. Mobility Appliances by Disabled Women Entrepreneurs (MADE), in cooperation with the Office of Minister of State for Gender, Labour and Social Development and in collaboration with Whirlwind Women of Whirlwind Wheelchair International: Uganda disabled women's whirlwind wheelchair training project, Kampala (Uganda).

6. Deaf Women Wing, Kenya National Deaf Association, in cooperation with the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports: Seminar on key issues facing deaf women in Africa (Nairobi, December 2000) (Eastern Africa subregion).

7. Eastern Africa Federation of the Disabled (EAFOD), in cooperation with the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports and in collaboration with the United Disabled Persons of Kenya: Workshop on application of universal design concepts and information technologies to the Africa Decade of Disabled Persons (Nairobi, 6-10 November 2000) (Eastern Africa subregion).

8. African Rehabilitation Institute (IAR), Dakar Regional Office: Seminar [for IAR Francophone member States] on the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Dakar, 10-12 April 2000).

9. Pan African Federation of the Disabled (PAFOD), in cooperation with the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports and in collaboration with United Disabled Persons of Kenya: Consultative meeting on leadership training in support of the African Decade of Disabled Persons (Nairobi, December 2000) (Regional Africa).

B. Asia and the Pacific

10. International General Construction School, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, and Ministry of Public Works: Education, professional training and apprenticeship for young disabled persons (Cambodia).

11. Nepal Disabled Women Society, in cooperation with the Social Welfare Council: Socio-economic training and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities (Nepal).

C. Central and Eastern Europe

12. Association for Social Inclusion of Persons with Mental Retardation of Tuzla, in cooperation with the Ministry for Labour, Social Policy and Refugees: Pilot action for social integration of persons with mental retardation: Brcko, Gradac and Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

13. Association for Promotion of Inclusion, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare: Community-based rehabilitation of persons with mental retardation (Croatia).

14. Salva Vita Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare: Supported employment in Hungary for people with mental disabilities (Hungary).

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

15. Fundación Amor y Energía (AM-EN), in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, and National Council on Disability (CONADIS): Capacity-building for rehabilitation of children with disabilities (Ecuador).

16. Fundación Momentum Internacional (FMI), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture: Assistance for training and development of Fábrica de Sillas de Ruedas Momentum, Quito (Ecuador).

17. Asociación por Desarrollo de la Persona con Discapacidad (APRODDIS), in cooperation with the National Council for Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS): Elimination of architectural barriers: assistance for workshops and outreach on accessibility (Peru).

18. Defensoria del Pueblo de Republica del Perú; Equipo de Defensa y Promoción de las Personas con Discapacid, in collaboration with the College of Architects of Perú: National seminar on accessibility: a city for all (Lima, 22 June 2000) (Peru).

19. Ministerio de la Juventud, la Mujer, la Niñez y la Familia, in collaboration with the Instituto Panameño de Habilitación Especial: Seminar on children with disabilities: issues and trends in development policies and programmes in the Americas region (Panama City, 16-20 October 2000) (Regional Latin America).

20. Fundación Mexicana de Integración Social, in cooperation with Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia: Seminar on strategies for implementing the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities with regard to Internet accessibility (Mexico City, 6-10 March 2001) (Regional Latin America).

E. Western Asia

21. Local Council for Welfare of Disabled Persons (Boujr al-Barajneh), in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and in collaboration with ESCWA: Promoting self-reliance, with particular emphasis on employment: community based rehabilitation in Bourj al-Barajneh (Lebanon).

22. Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Palestine Authority: Computer training for Arab blind girls and women (Palestine Authority).

23. Saudi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training of Arab Blind Girls (Amman, Jordan), in cooperation with ESCWA: Assistance for Braille computer training for blind girls and women (Regional Western Asia).

F. Interregional

24. Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China, in cooperation with Hong Kong University, Faculty of Law: Interregional seminar on international norms and standards relating to disability (Hong Kong, 13-17 December 1999) (Interregional).

25. World Institute for Disability: Seminar for young women with disabilities (New York, 1-8 June 2000) (Interregional).

26. Southern African Federal Council on Disability: International workshop on environmental accessibility and universal design in developing economies (Providence, RI (United States), 13-19 June 2000) (Interregional).